



NEWSLETTER

March 2026



WE'VE DONE IT!!!

Thank You!!!

DOLPHIN IV

Early last year after lots of discussions between the Trustees and the Skippers it was decided that we would move from refurbishing Dolphin III to purchasing a new boat. Dolphin III was approaching 20 years of stalwart service so the better option was considered to be replacement and renewal.

We approached Cheetah Marine in Cowes on the Isle of Wight to request a quote to design and build a new Dolphin similar to Dolphin III but with a few minor adjustments and improvements.

Once we knew our target the massive task of fundraising £150,000 began.

We used our reserves as deposit and the Fundraising Sub Committee began sending the usual begging emails and letters to numerous care homes that had been on trips, Trusts, Lottery, other Charitable organisations and some local companies. Their kind generosity paved the way for the purchase.

A huge THANK YOU to all the Skippers and Crew for their input into the design of Dolphin IV and together with all our other Volunteers for their continuing hard work, to the Fundraising Sub Committee for typing and sending all those letters and emails, to the Trustees for their guidance, good sense and support to the General Public and all the Organisations, too many to name, who have generously donated.

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU ALL.

Please watch the website www.thefriendsofdolphin.co.uk for details of future fund raising events for which we would be most grateful for your continued support so that we can keep Dolphin IV running for many years to come.

Andy Preston

OPERATIONS REPORT

The 2025 season saw a lot of changes as we transitioned from pleasure to commercial status. This was in response to new requirements from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council responding to national guidelines. BCP control the waters in both local harbours. The boat itself was quickly registered as commercial and our skippers now either have to be commercially endorsed by the RYA or gain a Boatpersons' Licence from the local authority. All was achieved in about 3 weeks but did delay us starting operations for the first couple of weeks. In addition our Safety Management System had to be re-drafted and submitted to the Harbour Master for approval. I'm indebted to several of our skippers who worked hard to get us compliant.

We went on to complete a full season except where weather stopped us and provided an enjoyable time for a large number on people. Throughout the year our great team of volunteers kept passengers happy and safe.

Dolphin III did suffer from minor reliability issues but these were generally dealt with overnight and rarely stopped operations. What we could see was that Dolphin III was showing her age justifying the purchase of a new boat. As the season progressed I, and a small team, became very involved with the specification of the replacement boat and the selection of a supplier. In May we selected Cheetah Marine, supplier of Dolphin III. Cheetah worked closely with us through several design changes and came up with what we all hope will be an easier to operate, safe and reliable boat. As I write this report Dolphin IV is being readied for delivery.

We now have a lot more paperwork and procedures to deal with to be compliant with commercial operations.

In April we will start skipper and 1st mate training on our own boat with instructors from UK Power Boat Training. Once that's out of the way we plan for all crew to have a chance to understand and train on Dolphin IV.

We are looking forward to welcoming our passengers onboard Dolphin IV in 2026.

BOOKINGS REPORT

The demand for trips on Dolphin seems to increase year on year and this year has been extremely busy with very few cancellations due to bad weather.

All trips must be booked using our online booking system which works extremely well and should be the first point of contact if you wish to book a trip.

Everyone who works for The Friends of Dolphin is an unpaid volunteer so it is most helpful if administration can be kept to a minimum.

Because of the high demand for places a waiting list system was trialled enabling people to be contacted at short notice if there were any late cancellations which meant that the places on the boat did not go to waste.

Next year our new boat, Dolphin IV, will be on the water and I am anticipating another very busy year.

BOOKING TRIPS

PLEASE NOTE that you are now able to book on line through our website

www.thefriendsofdolphin.co.uk

or by e-mail:

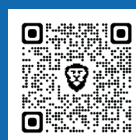
thefriendsofdolphin@gmail.com

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 two nominated methods.

So please don't forget:

thefriendsofdolphin@gmail.com

www.thefriendsofdolphin.co.uk



Scan the QR code

Using a mobile device, open the camera app and point it at the QR code, then tap the link

FUNDRAISING REPORT

The fundraising team, Margaret Newman and Barbara Gardener, were joined this year by Janet Gill, who having retired from crewing on Dolphin, decided to join the fundraising team and the trust has benefited from her commitment and skills. All their hard work and the time they spend on fundraising ensures that we can keep Dolphin afloat to bring pleasure to disabled people.

Fundraising in 2025 was not for the faint hearted! Not only did we have to cover the running costs of Dolphin 111, which is approx. £20,000 per year, but also to raise £150,000 towards the cost of the new boat, Dolphin IV.

It seemed a very steep hill to climb but by the end of the year, thanks to the endeavours of the fundraising team, the total had almost been achieved by fundraising events and applying for grants from charitable organisations.

Each year the fundraising team organise an annual evening cruise courtesy of City Cruises. On a beautiful, calm evening we travelled out of the harbour and down the Jurassic coast past Old Harry and the skipper sailed close to shore for good sighting of all the seabirds and there was a wonderful sunset. As the cruise progressed, we were entertained by the ukulele band. The cruise is one of our most

popular fundraisers, people come back every year so book up early if you would like to go in 2026. Details are on the website.

Our annual quiz night, held in the MS. Centre at Parley, was very well supported by 70 people who enjoyed the change of menu to a beautiful ploughman's supper which the fundraising team created. It was certainly a lovely plate of food. There was a good selection of raffle prizes, and our very entertaining quiz master Mark makes the evening.

There were two coffee mornings this year, one held at Rick Steins restaurant at Sandbanks and one at Lake Yard Marina near Hamworthy. Both were well attended and the home made cakes were abundant and delicious. See the website for details of coffee mornings for 2026.

Some events like our presence at Harry Pay Day and at the Ferndown Rotary's Fete on the Field, do not necessarily lead to many donations but raise awareness of the trips on Dolphin within the local community resulting in more bookings and support from local people who have never been on a trip before.

I would like to thank the fundraising team, most sincerely, for all that they have achieved this year and for all that they do for the trust.

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!!!

A LOOK BACK AT DOLPHIN OVER THE YEARS

In 1979, all Rotary Clubs were asked to produce a project to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International. The Dolphin Project was the brainchild of Parkstone Rotary Club, the reason behind it being that disabled people, in particular those in wheelchairs, were not able to board the normal pleasure boats in Poole Harbour and enjoy the sights and sounds of a trip in the second largest Harbour in the world.

Dolphin 1 was launched on 23rd February 1980 and first trips were started in August of that year. In 1982 Rotary started a Charity called The Friends of Dolphin governed by a Board of Trustees. Dolphin 1, and also Dolphin 11, (from 1990), were both flat-bottomed boats with a bow ramp which allowed easy access for wheelchairs.

In 2000 Poole Marina was formed, with an outer wall and pontoons, and it was realised that a better boat was now possible with side loading direct from the pontoons. With help from the Poole Harbour Commissioners and the Poole Fisherman's Association (who have generously given Dolphin a free berth in their end of the Marina since that time) Dolphin 111 was ordered, a much better and safer boat for our disabled passengers; it was a catamaran design and built to our specifications by Cheetah Marine on the Isle of Wight.

In 2023, the Trustees decided that Dolphin III should be replaced, as it was now starting to show it's age. Fundraising was started, our aim being to raise £150,000 to be match funded by money in our account. Dolphin III was sold and is now in Littlehampton. This was achieved early in 2026, and before we took delivery of Dolphin IV. Throughout the selection and ordering of our new boat, Dolphin IV, a small working group of skippers liaised with Cheetah Marine who have been most helpful throughout about our requirement as have engine manufacturer Yamaha. The basic design is the same as Dolphin III but with a number of refinements which will benefit both passengers and Crew.

Dolphin IV was delivered ahead of schedule on 10th March 2026, which will give both skippers and crew time to familiarise themselves both with the boat and the handling in time for the start of our season on 1st May. Although not our familiar yellow, being white, she does have a yellow strip down each hull.

However, the skippers and crew will continue to wear their familiar yellow polo shirts and Royal blue sweatshirts which are now so well known.

SIGN ON 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 there is now another way in which can give us a donation; for those with a computer who have access to the internet, you are now able to give a donation via the website

www.thefriendsofdolphin.co.uk

INTRODUCING DOLPHIN IV FEBRUARY 2026

Dolphin IV is a 10.2 metre Catamaran constructed by Cheetah Marine. Build has been monitored and certified by a professional surveyor. A group of skippers visited Cheetah in March to check the fitting out.

Safety is our number one concern. Dolphin 4 will be a safer boat for crew and more importantly our passengers. We have more engine power to deal with windage and a Yamaha "Helm Master" control system. Helm Master uses computer control to turn helm inputs into instructions to the engine. Close quarters control will be much safer for the crew and boat.

The newly designed Dolphin IV has more deck space under the roof and slightly wider seats. We gained by not having a port-side door, boarding is only from the starboard side where the skipper is located. We have a small deck area outside the roof where we just had wasted space on the old boat and retain our important side screens for inclement weather.

Dolphin IV has a full suite of navigation and communication equipment. We'll also be broadcasting our position in real time so harbour control and the coastguard will know exactly where we are if we are unfortunate enough to need help. We carry a wide range of first aid and rescue equipment meeting the latest requirements plus a defibrillator. All skippers and 1st mates are trained and certified first aiders.

The Friends of Dolphin trust will continue to work closely with the RNLI and Poole Harbour Master to provide a first class safe service.

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 Bob Irwin on irwinrobert31@gmail.com



DOLPHIN IV IS HERE!

Dolphin III has done sterling service for many years but had started to show her age and, after a lot of discussion and cost analysis comparing refurbishment versus new, the Trustees decided on a new boat. Unsurprisingly it is called "Dolphin IV"! The boat comes from the same manufacturer, Cheetah Marine.

Dolphin IV was delivered pre-season on 10th March 2026 ready for crew training. She has 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 had a small working group of skippers liaising with Cheetah who were very easy to work with and accommodation of our requirements as have engine manufacturer Yamaha.

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



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, 2025, the Trophy was awarded to Parkstone Yacht Club who have been so helpful to Dolphin. Our photo shows our Chair of Trustees Carol Cox presenting the trophy to the Commodore, Roger Bennett, on 6th November 2025.

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.

Bob Irwin

To The Friends of Dolphin

I am writing to thank you on behalf of myself and my fellow Cherry Tree team members for the boat trip to Wareham in September. I was so chuffed to have been given the opportunity. We travelled by minibus from the Nursery at Northbourne to Poole Quay and met your friendly crew by the jetty who gave us confidence, issued life jackets to those who wanted one and we boarded the Dolphin vessel. The crew were friendly and knowledgeable showing us the route we were to take to Wareham. We enjoyed waving to the other boats we passed and pointed to familiar landmarks along the way, Hamworthy Park, Furzey Island, Arne and tried to identify other islands within the Harbour.

There was a time when I was so anxious I could not drive my car, walk across an open space or walk around my block, let alone go on a boat surrounded by water! Attending Cherry Tree has helped me to maintain my mental health and these sort of experience days really do help us to take the steps that lead towards recovery and regain calmness and confidence. Being able to focus on the natural world around us, be mesmerized by watching the bubbling wake, making new memories and being able to socialise with people that we may not necessarily come in to contact with, chatting and sharing experiences along the trip. I took lots of photographs and Ray, who is our Admin and Events organiser, even posted on our social media page a photo of my battered sausage, the lunch option from the local chip shop at Wareham was enjoyed by all and went down very well too!

Our day was much appreciated – thank you all so much again. It is an amazing Charity.

With kind regards.

Debbie (Cherry Tree Member)

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Friends of Dolphin are seeking to compile a register of ANYONE who is able to give help or time to Dolphin, whether it is time to help us with fund raising, or time as a crew member on 'Dolphin III'.

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 fund raising, supermarket collections, crewing, or at any other general event that we might organise.

We are especially looking for anyone to help us with Fund raising 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 contact Carol Cox on **thefriendsofdolphin@gmail.com**

For those who are able to help by giving some of their time to volunteer for crewing on Dolphin, please contact Carol Cox on **thefriendsofdolphin@gmail.com**

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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**



BOAT FOR DISABLED PASSENGERS TAKES LAST TRIP

A boat which provided free trips for disabled passengers and their carers is taking its final voyage before being replaced.

Dolphin III, which operates in Poole Harbour and is run by local charity The Friends of Dolphin, is being decommissioned and sold.

Following one final trip with passengers, at 18:00 BST on Tuesday the vessel will leave Poole Quay Boat Haven accompanied by a flotilla of boats from the RNLI, Poole and Parkstone yacht clubs, Poole Harbour Commissioners and several private boats.

The charity has been going officially since 1982, and Dolphin III is its third boat. It will be replaced in March by a new boat which is being built on the Isle of Wight by Cheetah Marine.

Dolphin III was introduced in 2008, following on from Dolphin I, launched in 1980, and Dolphin II in 1990.

Skipper and trustee Bill Lauste told the BBC: "It is a bit emotional... but we're all looking forward to the new boat which will be broadly similar and will just carry on doing what we do next year with the shiny new boat".



He said: "We have a flotilla made up of organisations that have helped out the charity.

"It's a way of local organisations that have been helping us to mark the occasion."

IMAGE SOURCE, BILL LAUSTE

Image caption,

Dolphin III has taken about 32,000 passengers in its lifetime

The charity has carried about 60,000 people since it began, with Dolphin III taking about 32,000 of them.

It carries 12 passengers at a time, making trips from May to the end of September every year.

Run by volunteers, the Friends of Dolphin was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2017.



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Brian Miles

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How you can support The Friends of Dolphin

Become a Friend

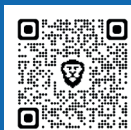
Becoming a friend and an associate member is a great way of helping us in a small way. As a member you will receive the annual Newsletter.

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 Drove,
Lytchett Matravers
Dorset
BH16 6BX**



TO DONATE PLEASE CLICK

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 Dolphin, Sort Code: 30-96-50, Account: 01645718
Lloyds Bank, 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

