

PRESS RELEASE – released 14th September 2014

Newbury Rotary “Messing about on the River”

2nd Newbury Cub Scouts were just one of the local Newbury Community Groups to salute Newbury Rotary for a great day out last week on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Each year Newbury Rotary skippers and crews a barge from The Bruce Trust for a week in September giving Newbury Community Groups the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of our local canal and a chance to leave their cares behind. Newbury Rotary offers day trips as the barge winds its way from Great Bedwyn and all the way to Ufton and back.

“The organisation was first rate and the day ran so smoothly I even relaxed and enjoyed myself! The "Rebecca" is a beautifully appointed vessel and we all felt very privileged to be on her for the day. The Cubs really enjoyed helping at the locks and swing bridges and seemed to enjoy the quiz and 'skeet shooting' although I think the highlight was making bacon butties and cups of tea for the crew,” said Akela Martin Turner, 2nd Newbury Cub Scouts.

This year, as well as 2nd Newbury Cub Scouts, Newbury Rotary hosted groups onboard the Bruce Trust’s “Rebecca” barge from Two Saints, Kintbury Volunteer Group, Eight Bells for Mental Health, Motor Neurone Disease Support , Webcas Drop-In Club and Newbury & District MS Society.

The “Rebecca” is just one of four Bruce Trust barges that is a specially-designed, purpose-built, wide-beam canal boat which can be used by disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people having wide-access ramps for boarding at the stern deck and a electro hydraulic lift down into the boat. The extra width of the boats provides excellent manoeuvrability for wheelchair users and they all have special built-in facilities.

“ This barge week is just one of the many activities our Rotarians undertake each year to help our local Newbury Community and has contributed to Newbury Rotary being selected as a Finalist in the West Berkshire Business Awards 2014 (Business Executive Advantage Charity & Community Award Category). Everyone, from skipper to crew to our guests have a great time messing about, or just relaxing, on our beautiful Kennet and Avon Canal,” said Hemant Amin, President Newbury Rotary.

A full gallery of photos from the week can be viewed at www.newburyrotary.org

Photos attached below

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Rotary Club of Newbury : <http://www.newburyrotary.org>

Rotary's main objective is service in the community, in the workplace, and around the globe. There are 1.2 million Rotarians who make up more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in nearly every country in the world who all share a dedication to the ideal of Service Above Self. The Rotary Club of Newbury is one of those clubs.

The Rotary Club of Newbury is one of 1,855 clubs within *Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland* (RIBI) which has in total over 55,000 members. It in turn, is an integral part of Rotary International, the world's first service organisation.

The Bruce Trust: <http://www.brucetrust.org.uk>

The Bruce Trust is a registered charity providing specially-designed, purpose-built, wide-beam canal boats, for hire for self-catering, self-steer holidays by disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people along with their family, friends or carers.

The Trust has a fleet of four boats. Rebecca and Hannah are 12 berth, Diana is 10 berth and Rachel is 6 berth. Each boat has the highest quality accommodation and the ultimate flexibility for people with a wide variety of special needs. They all have a fully equipped galley with cooker and fridge, central heating and flushing W.C. The extra width of the boats provides excellent maneuverability for wheelchair users and they all have special built-in facilities.

Photo 1: 2nd Newbury Cub Scouts salute their day out on the Kennet and Avon



Photo2: Webcas Drop-in Club spreading out onboard the spacious Rebecca barge





Photo 3: Kintbury Volunteer Group say cheers in style

