



Information Pack

www.meganandtinks.org.uk

Unit 2, CanalHouse Wharf

Canal Street

Nottingham NG1 7EH

Tel 0115 837 0225

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd Registered charity number 1176252



Megan and Tinks are located in the City Centre on the Nottingham Canal. We offer half day, full day, residential and evening (summertime only) trips for groups of up to 12 / 24 people to experience their local waterway environment from our two 70ft narrowboats, Megan and Tinkers Leen, each staffed by our highly experienced and qualified skippers.

The project began over 30 years ago by Nottingham City Council and has established itself as one of the most respected community boat projects in the country. Recently moved to a registered charity, we offer a safe, accessible programme, with one boat fitted with a hydraulic lift to enable access for a variety of people including wheelchair users and people with limited mobility. We aim to provide a waterways experience including boat steering, working the canal's locks, water safety and a general taste of waterways life.

All of our trips with young people will offer new experiences and learning outcomes for them.

Half-day and whole day trips on the Nottingham Canal and River Trent can include:

- Exploration of the Natural Environment and Conservation Work**
- Exploration of the Heritage Environment, Local History and Geography**
- Art & Photography**
- Adventure Activities**
- Teamwork and Skills in Crewing a Boat**
- Team Building for Groups and Corporate Enterprises**

Evening trips are possible in the summer months.

Two-day, three-day and six-day residential trips for the full waterways experience can include:

- Boat Handling**
- Lock Working**
- Waterways Safety**
- Independent and Shared Living Skills**
- Team Building**
- History, Geography, Art & Photography Field Trips**

Our base at Canal House Wharf in the City Centre has easy access to the train and bus stations and tram stops as well as the Nottingham Castle and Brewhouse Yard

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd

Registered charity number 1176252

A green narrowboat is moored on a canal. The boat has a sign that reads 'TINKERS LEEN' and 'NOTTINGHAM NARROWBOAT PROJECT'. In the background, there is a large brick building with many windows.

How many people can we bring?

Each of our 70ft (21 metre) narrowboats is capable of carrying up to 12 passengers. That means with both boats the group can be up to 24 people including the Leaders. This does not include the staff / volunteers from MeganandTinks as they are classed as crew and not passengers.

On residential trips the maximum group size is reduced to 10 (on Tinkers Leen) including the Leaders due to the amount of berths / beds. Only Megan has separate “rooms” (one 4 berth, one 6 berth), Tinkers Leen has an open plan bunk area so mixed gender groups will need to liaise with us regarding sleeping arrangements. We will arrange for a fully qualified skipper to take your trip. We may allocate a training skipper as well if there is someone available. If you would like a female skipper please ask at the time of booking and we will do our best.

What would your group like to do?

Would they prefer a short trip, day trip or a residential? The boats are available for hire in 3 – 3.5-hour blocks from 9.30am weekdays and weekends. During the summer months we can also offer evening trips.

What can we do on the boats?

Group members are invited to and will be actively encouraged to get involved with: working locks, steering the boat and generally appreciating all aspects of boating on the inland waterways. We can provide various resources for free such as a wildlife quiz, word searches, puzzles, games & art boxes – most of these are of an educational nature on the theme of boats.

Where can we go?

In the course of a day we would normally have part of the trip on the Canal, where there would be at least one lock to work, and part on the River Trent. A typical day trip starts and finishes at our base in the city centre but alternative pick up and / or drop off points can be arranged. Further details of destinations and facilities close by will be sent to you if you are booking a residential trip. Off boat visits can include Victoria Embankment, Holme Pierrepont Water sports Centre where it is often possible to see kayaks and rafts going down the slalom course. At Beeston it is possible to visit the new Canal Heritage centre with a museum and café and Attenborough Nature Reserve / Centre - time permitting, as the centre itself is approximately a 20-25 minute walk from moorings at Beeston.

Whichever direction we set off in the canal and river takes in a mix of scenery, both urban & countryside.

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd

Registered charity number 1176252

Where are we based?

We are based on Canal Street between at CanalHouse Wharf., behind the CanalHouse Pub. Our office and resource room are upstairs / 2nd floor at the CanalHouse pub and the boats are kept just behind it. We are just a short distance from the Broadmarsh Bus Station, Nottingham Train Station and the NET Tram Stop adjacent to the Train Station.

Please see our location map on our web site. Upon arrival look for the gate which reads “Nottingham Narrowboat Project” (it may already be open!) and head through it to the boats at the back of the pub yard.

PLEASE NOTE- There is a small car park immediately in front of the CanalHouse Pub off of Canal Street. You cannot park here but we do have permission for groups to use it for dropping off and picking up. It can however get extremely congested with delivery vehicles etc so you may need to have patience or use Albion Street which has a small car park off of it as a drop off / pick up point. The group can then walk down to the pedestrian crossing to cross over Canal Street.

What about disabled access?

Advance notice is required for trips with group members who have disabilities or mobility difficulties as our moorings are unsuitable for such individuals. We do have permission to use the Canals and Rivers Trust access point at the former Baltimore Dinner near Castle Marina for loading / unloading. Vehicles cannot be left here. One boat has a wheelchair lift and there is a wheel chair accessible toilet on board. However, the nature of a narrowboat makes for limited accessibility throughout the whole boat. Due to space constraints the maximum number of wheelchairs is two. We will never turn anyone away because any disability. If you have a large electric wheelchair, please check with us as this may not fit on our hoist and we can try to find another solution.

What is provided on the boats?

There are lifejackets/buoyancy aids provided for everyone in the group.

A fully equipped galley (kitchen) with a standard size fridge and small freezer section, a full size gas oven with 4 ring hob, storage space for your food and supplies and all the pots, pans, plates, bowls, mugs and cutlery that you should need.

2 stow away tables are in the saloon (lounge area) of each boat which are able to fit up to 12 people around them for a meal or doing work of any kind.

Both boats are equipped with central heating in case of cold weather.

A CD player is on each boat so it is possible for groups to bring music to play.

Hand wash soap & toilet paper – please do not bring your own loo roll as the really thick stuff can clog up the waste tank!

“Ecover” Washing Up Liquid & Multi Surface Cleaner. Please do not bring your own as the washing up water goes into the Canal / River so it’s important to use biodegradable, environmentally friendly types.

Pillows are provided for those coming on residential trips but please bring your own clean pillowcases!

There are some activities available on the boat such as quizzes, word searches, games etc as well as a group activity / challenge resource pack which are suitable for approximately 8 years and up.

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd

Registered charity number 1176252

What your group needs to bring:

Each person should wear well-fitting shoes with good grip & avoid slip on shoes. If the weather is changeable waterproofs are advisable. If it is hot and / or clear skies some sun tan lotion.

Tea, coffee, milk sugar etc.

Food and drink for each person - including the Skipper and Crew as they are volunteers

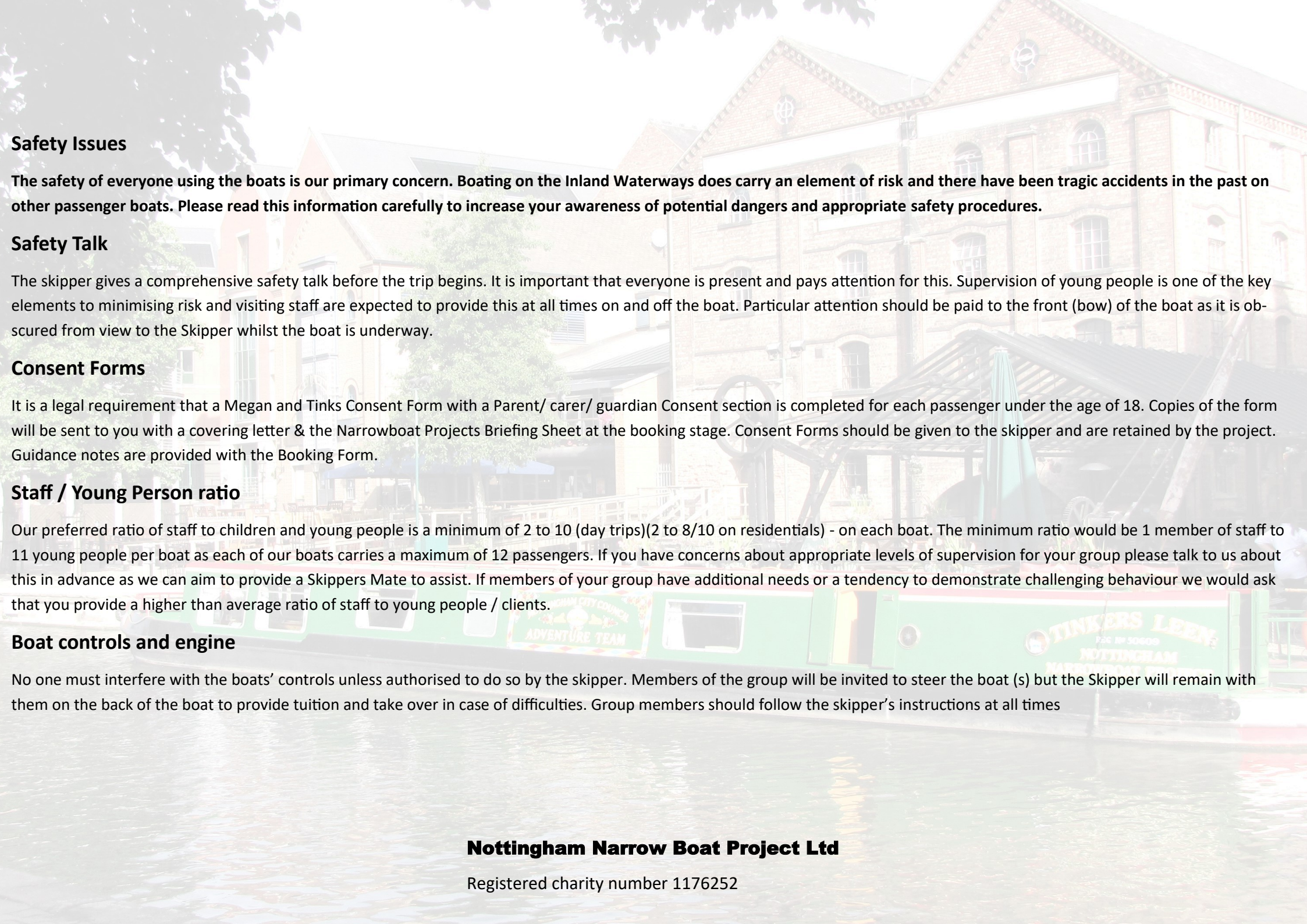
Tea towels and hand drying towel (s).

Completed Parent/ Carer/ Guardian Consent Forms for all young people up to the age of 18 in attendance and completed medical / emergency contact details for all adults.

Mobile phones, Cameras Binoculars etc usually don't float - so be careful not to drop them in!

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd

Registered charity number 1176252

A green narrowboat is moored on a canal. The boat has 'TINKERS LEEN' and 'NOTTINGHAM' written on its side, along with 'NARROWBOAT PROJECT'. There are also signs for 'ADVENTURE TEAM' and 'PAC BY SONGS'. In the background, there is a large, multi-story brick building with many windows and a clock tower. The scene is set in a city, likely Nottingham.

Safety Issues

The safety of everyone using the boats is our primary concern. Boating on the Inland Waterways does carry an element of risk and there have been tragic accidents in the past on other passenger boats. Please read this information carefully to increase your awareness of potential dangers and appropriate safety procedures.

Safety Talk

The skipper gives a comprehensive safety talk before the trip begins. It is important that everyone is present and pays attention for this. Supervision of young people is one of the key elements to minimising risk and visiting staff are expected to provide this at all times on and off the boat. Particular attention should be paid to the front (bow) of the boat as it is obscured from view to the Skipper whilst the boat is underway.

Consent Forms

It is a legal requirement that a Megan and Tinks Consent Form with a Parent/ carer/ guardian Consent section is completed for each passenger under the age of 18. Copies of the form will be sent to you with a covering letter & the Narrowboat Projects Briefing Sheet at the booking stage. Consent Forms should be given to the skipper and are retained by the project. Guidance notes are provided with the Booking Form.

Staff / Young Person ratio

Our preferred ratio of staff to children and young people is a minimum of 2 to 10 (day trips)(2 to 8/10 on residentials) - on each boat. The minimum ratio would be 1 member of staff to 11 young people per boat as each of our boats carries a maximum of 12 passengers. If you have concerns about appropriate levels of supervision for your group please talk to us about this in advance as we can aim to provide a Skippers Mate to assist. If members of your group have additional needs or a tendency to demonstrate challenging behaviour we would ask that you provide a higher than average ratio of staff to young people / clients.

Boat controls and engine

No one must interfere with the boats' controls unless authorised to do so by the skipper. Members of the group will be invited to steer the boat (s) but the Skipper will remain with them on the back of the boat to provide tuition and take over in case of difficulties. Group members should follow the skipper's instructions at all times

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd


Registered charity number 1176252

General code of conduct

- A copy of the Canals and River Trust Code of Conduct is available on board.
- **No smoking** on the boats.
- Please remember you are representatives of Megan and Tinks while on board and therefore must respect the needs of other waterways users.
- **Alcohol** may be consumed on board at the discretion of the skipper on **Private** bookings. The skipper's decision is final.
- **Boat controls and engine**
- No one must interfere with the boats' controls unless authorised to do so by the skipper. Members of the group will be invited to steer the boat(s) but the Skipper will remain with them on the back of the boat to provide tuition and take over in case of difficulties. Group members should follow the skipper's instructions at all times

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd

Registered charity number 1176252

A green narrowboat is moored on a canal. The boat has several windows and a sign that reads "TINKERS LEEN NOTTINGHAM NARROWBOAT PROJECT". In the background, there is a large, multi-story brick building with many windows. The scene is set in a canal area with trees and other buildings visible in the distance.

Getting on and off the Boats

This can be hazardous and care should always be taken by group members. Instructions are included in the Skippers safety talk but it is the responsibility of the trip organiser to make sure all members have been briefed about **wearing appropriate, non-slip footwear**.

Risk Assessments

These have been carried out and are available upon request. We would ask you to carry out your own risk assessments on any members of your group who you believe may be at extra risk in a water / boating environment. This may include individuals with challenging behaviour, learning difficulties, phobias etc.

Leptospirosis / Weils disease

These infections can be contracted through contact with water that contains animal urine. Although it is extremely unlikely for participants to contract these infections there is still an element of risk for anyone involved with activity that puts them in contact with river or canal water. Because of this the following precautions should be taken: Any cuts or minor wounds should be covered with a waterproof plaster or dressing. Swimming in the river / canal is not allowed. You should report any ill effects experienced between 4 days and 2 weeks after your trip to a doctor stating that you may have come into contact with river water. Pregnant and breast feeding ladies should not operate the locks or handle ropes for this reason.

Group Leader's Own Children

Group Leaders are only able to bring along younger members of their own families with written permission of their relevant Line Manager.

Insurance

Megan and Tinks is covered under a Public Liability Insurance Policy. It is the responsibility of individual organisers to take out separate and additional insurance for (i) Personal accident (ii) Loss of earnings (iii) Loss or damage to personal property.

Special Safety Equipment

Lifejackets / buoyancy aids will be provided and must be worn at all times out side of the boat and when working locks for all group members, including staff. The boats are equipped with fire safety equipment, First Aid kits and mobile phones in case of emergency

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd

Registered charity number 1176252

What to do in case of emergency

Always inform the skipper immediately and follow the skipper's instructions if any of the following happen:

Person overboard

Smelling gas / gas alarm going off

Fire

Water entering the boat

In addition please remain calm and provide reassurance to your group members to help avoid any one panicking. Megan and Tinks staff and volunteers have undergone first aid training. Ideally you should aim to provide a staff member with a First Aid qualification as well. On residential trips this is essential as Megan and Tinks staff are entitled to leave the boat, once tied up for the evening, and take a break. They will return to the boat to sleep and should always provide you with a mobile phone number that they are contactable on in the event of an emergency.

Nottingham Narrow Boat Project Ltd

Registered charity number 1176252