

The Mary Gordon is an historic passenger boat (listed on the National Register of Historic Ships) which was built in 1900 and from 1942 to 1969 was Lincoln's pleasure boat plying between Lincoln and Gainsborough.

The Mary Gordon Trust was established in 1999. It is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. A support group the Friends of the Mary Gordon was formed at the same time and is an unincorporated society.

An award of £20k was made by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2007 for a feasibility study into the restoration and use of the boat. (Copy attached). A subsequent full restoration bid in 2008 was declined due to lack of permanent mooring available in Lincoln allowing public access. We have now overcome this and have been offered a permanent mooring at Torksey by Stuart Kinch. This will be ideal as it is midway between Lincoln and Gainsborough, the two areas that we feel will benefit from the boat and where it was first used in Lincoln in the 1940's.

Our aim is to restore the boat within Lincolnshire (it is currently based at Newtoft, West Lindsey). We have a project manager and mentor and intend to take on at least one apprentice and also use volunteer labour. This will be an important 'skills transfer' project to ensure that wooden boat building skills, once abundant but now virtually extinct, continue through the generations.

Once restored, our ambition is to use the boat in a variety of ways to benefit the community:-

1 As part of a Lincoln based project similar to Hull based Cat Zero See www.catzero.org for more information. This would involve input from industry and commerce in the community. This is still in the embryonic stages but we intend to work closely with LAGGAT.

2 We also hope to work with the local health authority to provide a focus for young people 16-24 with 'mental health' issues. We feel this could add purpose to their lives, even if only a few are involved it would be worthwhile. We are aware there is a need and are seeking input from the NHS.

3 School trips. ½ day, this meets curriculum objectives

4 Private/Corporate charter, for hospitality, weddings etc., mainly to raise funds towards running costs.

The boat would initially be moored at Torksey Marina (within WLDC) and used between Lincoln and Gainsborough. We also intend to involve local schools in the district and county.

The project will show the importance of the county's waterways history and influence on industry and commerce; its social and environmental importance and ways in

which modern technology can be used in a traditional setting. Most importantly, it will give young people a new experience - which could change their lives.

- June 2013 Meeting with Heritage Lottery Fund. HLF are keen to help and we are aiming to submit a first round bid c £100k 11/13.
- Lisa Garthwaite , an experienced lottery bid writer, is working for us on this project and we are planning to submit a stage one bid by 15th November 2013.
- More information at www.marygordon.org.uk.