

The first 15 years...



1988

The River Thames Boat Project was formed in 1988 when the then Mayor of Richmond, Martin Emerson, and a passionate and energetic team of supporters, acquired Gerja, now called *Thames Venturer*, our 100ft, 111 year old converted Dutch barge.



1989

The charity was registered in 1989 and soon after, a fantastic opportunity to be the focus of a 'Challenge Aneka' programme, enabled *Thames Venturer* to be fitted out with the galley, saloon and lift, transforming her into the accessible community boat she is today.

1991

The first education day took place in 1991 when Twickenham school, Archdeacon Cambridge, came on board.



1993

The first residential took place in 1993 and the first day trip in 1994 was for a disabled group from the Royal Star & Garter Home.

Miranda Jagers was a founder member of the charity, and with the board of Trustees and notable Chairs in Sir Peter Harrop and Richard Robinson, championed the charity, growing the base of volunteers and supporters into the 70 strong group that it is today.



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Bookings over the years for our therapeutic cruises, residentials and education days, have grown and grown, and in 2009, we did 100 days on the river in one season - a record number!

2012

In 2012, a significant grant from the City Bridge Trust enabled the charity to develop School on the River and appoint an Environmental Education Co-ordinator taking our education offer to the next level.



Learning about the river, locks and water quality is just as relevant today. With the support of the Heathrow Community Fund we have now added new content – Drastic Plastic – to our School on the River day. This tackles the very current issues of single use plastic and its impact on the river and marine environment.

2014

In 2014, the aim to acquire a new day boat was announced by the then Chair, Louise Sibley, at the AGM.

2019

As well as marking 30 years of the charity, 2019 is the first full year of operating two boats, enabling us to deliver more days on the river to more beneficiaries and continue in our mission to make the Thames accessible. 2019 has also seen an office move for the staff team.

After 30 years in shared office space in Richmond, we are now at Tamesis Club, a sailing club by the river in Teddington. This brings the staff team closer to the river and the boats and feels very in tune with our mission.

2018

Following significant donations from the Lest We Forget Association, Veolia and volunteers, the plan became a reality and *Thames Discoverer* was designed, constructed and then delivered in 2018. Her naming ceremony was in May 2018 and she joined *Thames Venturer* part way through the season to bring more special days on the river to our client groups. *Thames Discoverer* is a custom-built accessible day cruise boat with a sunny front deck and large panoramic windows that make you feel very close and connected to the water.



Thank you to everyone who has supported the charity over the last 30 years. It would not have been possible without such dedication and enthusiasm from so many. We look forward to the next 30 years of the River Thames Boat Project and welcoming groups on board *Thames Venturer* and *Thames Discoverer*.