



Falkirk Canals Classroom



Learning Activities for
Primary Schools



**HERITAGE
FUND**

Great Place[®]
Celebrate Your Heritage



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



gov.scot



**Scottish Rural
Development
Programme**





On Falkirk's canals, communities pull together to make sure everyone is included in the amazing experiences the water can offer. Students will explore Modern Studies on the canals in this section, learning about water-based volunteering and charities that use the canals.

Modern Studies is a part of Social Subjects and is all about understanding how communities function together. A great example of this is when people volunteer to help others, and one organisation in the local community that does this on the canals is the Seagull Trust. They provide free canal boat trips for people with disabilities.

The Seagull Trust - Scotland

There are bases at Falkirk, Ratho, Kirkintilloch and Inverness. Ratho near Edinburgh is the birthplace of the Seagull Trust, when cruises started here in 1979, with their first boat, St John Crusader. The charity originally campaigned to save the canal network. Their seagull logo represents freedom.



The Seagull Trust – Falkirk branch

Thousands of people with disabilities have enjoyed free boat trips along the canal network, initially the Forth and Clyde Canal, then the Union Canal when the Falkirk boathouse opened in 1996.

Who is it for?

Each boat can take 12 passengers, with space for up to four wheelchairs. There is a lift to provide easy wheelchair access, a disabled toilet and moveable seats to suit all parties. Many groups benefit from the free canal cruises, from Alzheimer Scotland to nursing homes, Additional Support Needs schools & families. Seagull Trust Cruises Falkirk branch operates six different cruise packages for people with physical and mental disabilities. There are two round trips from the boathouse – a one-hour and a two-hour long cruise along the Union Canal. There is also a five-hour round trip option from the boathouse. And there are three cruises which also take in the Falkirk Wheel – one sailing to the wheel, another returning from it and a five-hour trip to the landmark and back again. During all these cruises, the crew – who are all volunteers – serve up tea, coffee and soft drinks, also free of charge. Anyone who has a physical or mental disability is welcome to sail and many families also book parties on board.

The importance of volunteering

The Trust couldn't operate without the support of its 200 members and the many volunteers who give of their time to man cruises. Each day, from April to October, it needs a lead skipper, five fellow skippers and crew to steer passengers on half and full-day trips on the Union Canal.



Fundraising

Seagull Trust Cruises are mostly powered by generous public donations. The Trust also set up an art gallery and charity shop recently in the Howgate Centre. A percentage of proceeds from artwork sales helps to power the charity's daily boat trips from April to October. BAE Systems has long been a supporter of the Trust's work, with its hungry workers raising a staggering £25,360 in the last six years, by giving donations at their staff tuck shop. Other local organisations have donated funds to the Trust, like the Rotary and Round Table. Falkirk High School pupils have also given £3000 from their Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

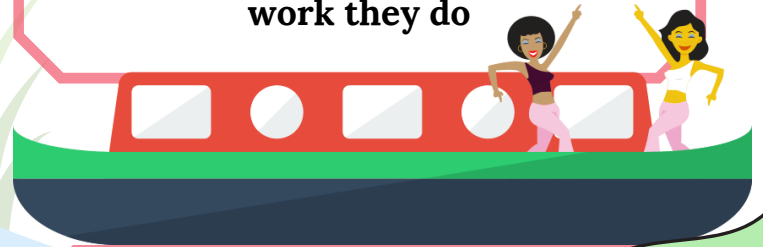


Video-link of Seagull Trust canal barge journey

CLICK HERE

Modern Studies

You will investigate local canal charity The Seagull Trust and create a presentation to let others know about their history and the great work they do



Look



- Using the Scrapbook page, make a list of important facts you've learned about The Seagull Trust
- Look at the video showing a Seagull Trust canal barge journey
- Look out along the canal for Seagull Trust barges or buildings

Talk

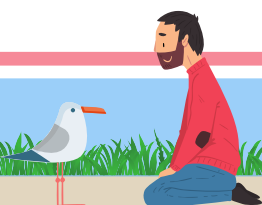


- Talk about the difference between a business and a charity
- Talk about the good things that charities do, and in particular, The Seagull Trust
- Talk about other ways you could help people locally in exploring Falkirk's canals

Make



- Make a list of important facts you find out about The Seagull Trust
- Make a list of how people benefit from charities like the Seagull Trust
- Make a presentation that tells people more about The Seagull Trust
- Make a presentation about ideas you have for other ways you could help people locally to explore Falkirk's canals



Scrapbook



Congratulations on completing this section of the booklet. Have your teacher tick off your achievements in **Modern Studies**

Subject	Code	Description	Achieved
Modern Studies	SOC 0-16a	By exploring my local community, I have discovered the different roles people play and how they can help.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modern Studies	SOC 1-16a	I can contribute to a discussion of the difference between my needs and wants and those of others around me	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modern Studies	SOC 2-16a	I can explain how the needs of a group in my local community are supported.	<input type="checkbox"/>
