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Make secure online donations via [www.thebiggive.org](http://www.thebiggive.org)

Spread the word about the project

### The Directors

**Don Hind (Chair):** Co-instigator of the current project; Creator & M D of Corpach Boatbuilding Co; Qualified teacher of outdoor education; past skipper of STY 'Arethusa' and yacht charter vessel 'Lorne Leader'; past director of 'Fingal of Caledonia'; past director of the Highland Employer Coalition & Nevis Community Radio.

**Martin Balcombe:** MD of Caledonian Discovery Ltd., General Manager of Sail Caledonia; RYA Yachtmaster instructor, Dinghy Senior Instructor, Powerboat Instructor, Sea Survival Instructor, VHF Radio Instructor; SMLTB Winter Mountain Leader Certificate, SMBLA qualified Trail Cycle Leader; past Head of Sailing for Outward Bound Scotland.

**Jan Brown (Company Secretary):** Co-founder and past director of The Balmore Trust; retired retail business owner; past secretary and fund raiser of the Management Committee of a successful £600,000 project to build a Village Hall in Argyll; past volunteer fund raiser for The Puffer Preservation Trust (£150,000 raised for a steam driven vessel operating on the canal); a past director of GRAB (Group for Recycling in Argyll & Bute)

**Graham Moss:** Co-instigator of the current project; International Mountain Leader, Summer & Winter Mountain Leader, RYA Ocean Yachtmaster with commercial & instructor endorsements; RYA advanced powerboat instructor.

**Dr. Su Sen MBE:** Retired General Surgeon and GP; Founder & past treasurer of Lochaber Action on Disability; Past Chair of Lochaber Disability Access Panel; Published 'Accessible Lochaber – A Guide to Lochaber'

**Paul Smyth ACMA, MBA:** Retired finance director of the UK branch of a multinational company; past treasurer of the Management Committee of a successful £600,000 project to build a Village Hall in Argyll; past treasurer of The Puffer Preservation Trust (£150,000 raised for a steam driven vessel operating on the canal);

### Contact

If you are able to help or would like to become involved in any way, please contact the secretary: Mrs. Jan Brown, Otters, Ardfern, Argyll PA31 8QN or by e mail [jan@caliness.org](mailto:jan@caliness.org)  
[www.caliness.org](http://www.caliness.org)

Charity Reg. No. SC039317  
Company Limited by Guarantee 337559

Reg. office; C/o Corpach Boatbuilding Co., Corpach, Fort William,  
Lochaber PH33 7NB

# CALINESS TRUST

'Family holidays afloat for all abilities'

The Great Glen traverses the north of Scotland between Fort William and Inverness. Here, amidst a spectacular backdrop, the Caledonian Canal links the waters of Loch Ness, Loch Oich and Loch Lochy, forming an unparalleled coast to coast waterway. The canal and the Great Glen are enjoyed by many people each year however there is currently no provision for disabled people to experience a residential activity holiday afloat - one man's vision of rectifying this came nearer to realisation when the Caliness Trust was founded in 2008.



Artist's impression of the proposed boat

### The Vision

To build a boat which will be accessible to people of all abilities, which will:

- Offer residential holidays/cruises, living onboard and cruising the Caledonian Canal
- Offer a variety of outdoor/adventure activities specifically designed for people with a range of different abilities
- Enable families with one or more disabled members to enjoy holidays together
- Act as a floating education, interpretation and resource centre for both visitors and locals wishing to learn about the history, geology, mythology and culture of The Great Glen and the construction and history of the Caledonian Canal. Act as a conference centre during the winter.
- Be part crewed and maintained by volunteer members of the local community.
- Offer bursaries so that the project is affordable to all.



*The Great Glen and Caledonian Canal*

#### **The vessel.**

- The boat will be 41.47m overall with a beam of 9m and will accommodate 12 guests (in double cabins) and 4 crew members.
- The layout of the accommodation and decks will be such that all areas will be fully accessible to every guest whether they be ambulant, a wheelchair user or visually impaired.
- A particular aspect of the holiday will be the opportunity to participate in various activities both on the water and ashore. Thus the boat will carry sailing dinghies, canoes, a rescue boat and off road wheelchairs. The design of the parent vessel is such that safe launching and recovery of small boats and their crews can be effected.
- The vessel will incorporate a resource centre which will enable passengers to access information on the geology, history, mythology and culture of the Great Glen as they pass through. It is anticipated that this facility will also be used by local people especially schoolchildren and their teachers, throughout the year.

#### **Current situation**

As an initial stage in bringing his vision to fruition, Don Hind commissioned naval architect, David Cannell, to prepare concept drawings based on a brief devised from Don's own experiences as a charter skipper sailing with disabled guests and in conjunction with both able and disabled friends and colleagues.

Don then invited 5 people all of whom are highly experienced in business and project management, fundraising, accountancy, disability issues and in leading a wide range of outdoor activities, including activities based on and around the Caledonian Canal, to take the project forward.

In December 2007 the Caliness Trust obtained charitable status and in early 2008 it became a company limited by guarantee with Don and the initial 5 volunteers forming the first Board of Directors.

#### **The next stages**

An initial £11,558 was raised for:

- A survey to confirm the perceived need.
- The preparation of the tender drawings by the naval architect. Once the tenders come in the full cost of the project will be known.

Further funds will then have to be raised in order to:

- Appoint a Project Manager.
- Appoint a builder.
- Build and equip the vessel.

#### **Looking ahead**

- A Management Company with a separate board will be created to operate and administer the vessel.
- A volunteer group will be formed from within the local community to serve on the board of management and assist with administration and crewing of the vessel.
- Vessel on site.
- Crew training/shakedown/familiarisation cruises.
- First guests!