

About The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust

The Trust was established in 1995 to promote the development of a broad waterway linking the River Great Ouse to the Grand Union Canal - to create Britain's first major new waterway in a century. Now part of a much expanded waterway park concept, it will provide amenities and opportunities for communities at the heart of the Oxford/ Milton Keynes/Cambridge Arc - a key location for housing and economic growth.

The Waterway Park will provide the green/blue corridor linking new and existing communities, creating a unique sense of identity and offering a wide range of health and recreational activities. It also has the potential to boost the local economy through new tourism-related jobs and additional spending in the area, as well as environmental benefits such as flood prevention. The project is supported by a consortium of local authorities, the Local Enterprise Partnership, navigation authorities and charities, including the Trust, whose role is to act as an advocate and mobilise support at all levels for the project.

Wedding Events aboard the

John Bunyan Community Boat



John Bunyan Boat



@johnbunyanboat



@johnbunyanboat



The John Bunyan

The John Bunyan Boat offers you a unique river venue, a great choice for your wedding event. Let us make your day unforgettable and impress your guests with a private river cruise or a static waterside venue. We can cater to just about every guest's need and aim to provide a high standard of service for your special day.

The John Bunyan Boat is available to suit your wedding day requirements and our team, led by our Wedding Event Cruise Coordinator, believe that the key to a successful event is planning, and for our customers to discuss their requirements (duration, embarkation/disembarkation points, cruise itinerary, cabin layout, catering requirements, etc.) with us before the event.

We can offer a range of wedding cruise options for up to 50 passengers¹ from one of our standard operating locations:

- Priory Marina
- The Barns Hotel
- Sovereigns Quay (near Star Rowing Club Riverside Bedford and short 5min walk from Bedford Registry Office)
- Swan Steps (junction of Newnham Rd. & The Embankment)

We would also be pleased to discuss other suitable embarkation/disembarkation points that you may have in mind for your wedding event.

¹ The John Bunyan Boat can carry a maximum of four wheelchairs at a time. Each wheelchair counts as four passengers.



We can cruise your party to the nearest point for your ceremony, from your ceremony to the reception, or for a drinks reception cruise occupying the time between the wedding breakfast and the evening entertainment, or for any other requirements you may have.

If you have more than 50 guests, we can split your cruise time into two or more mini-cruises, departing and returning to the same point. For example, book a 1.5 hour cruise, and split into two 1/2 hour cruises, with time for guests to embark/disembark. Should you be interested in this cruise format please contact our office for further information.

We are also able to provide cruise packages on the days before or after your wedding for family and/or friends on a "Special Guest Cruise".

Please note all route preferences and timings are subject to river and weather conditions on the day of the cruise.

The John Bunyan Boat is operated by Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprise Limited on behalf of the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust. The John Bunyan is run by volunteers with all income, including donations, going towards the maintenance and upkeep of the John Bunyan Boat and development of a new waterway park. This waterway park will link the River Great Ouse in Bedford to the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes.

The team at John Bunyan look forward to welcoming you aboard!

Cabin Facilities

The cabin is light and airy with panoramic windows and a small fore-deck that guests are free to access during the cruise. The boat offers flexible seating arrangements for up to 50 guests. The John Bunyan is licensed to carry a maximum of 50 passengers including any speakers, band members, third party catering staff, etc. that you may wish to join the cruise.

Our Wedding Event Coordinator would be pleased to discuss cabin layout with you.

THE JOHN BUNYAN BOAT HAS:

- a bar & café facility with hot and cold catering available
- an inbuilt audio system with microphone to provide cabin wide coverage
- an access lift for those with limited mobility/wheelchair access²
- a toilet wide enough to accommodate a medium-sized wheelchair².

The inbuilt audio system offers you the opportunity to provide your own playlist (via CD or device³) or should you prefer live entertainment then the boat can accommodate standalone sound and lighting systems (subject to confirmation of requirements).



If you are looking for entertainment, we may be able to provide contact details of organisations who have worked on-board before.

You may also wish to consider decorating the boat to suit your event. The John Bunyan Boat can offer exclusively for wedding events white bunting and table cloths. If you are looking for something different:

- You are welcome to decorate the boat yourself.⁴
- We can provide contact details of local suppliers who can provide wedding decoration packages, who have worked on the John Bunyan before, or who are known to us.

² Dimensions: 1190mm x 900mm, max weight 200kg. It is important that a helper is present to assist those needing to take advantage of this facility. The John Bunyan Boat can carry a total of four wheelchairs at a time; each wheelchair counts as four passengers.

³ Please provide devices with a 3.5mm audio jack cable and we advise testing devices on-board before the charter date.

⁴ Subject to prior arrangement.

Catering

The provision of good quality food is one of the essential elements of a memorable event. We are able to offer a number of catering options, both on-board and shore-side. Below we have included typical offerings that are provided as part of our normal cruise activities. Should you require something different for your cruise please discuss your requirements with our Wedding Event Coordinator.

THE BOAT HAS A SMALL GALLEY ON BOARD THAT IS ABLE TO PROVIDE:

- A Café & Bar service offering tea, coffee, soft drinks and snacks (crisps, peanuts, biscuits etc.). The bar offers a selection of alcoholic drinks, however we are able to stock and operate this to meet your requirement. Please note that the licensed bar operates 12:00-21:45 except Mondays. License extension may be possible should it be required.
- We can provide a range of non-alcoholic welcome drinks for guests and offer packages which include Champagne, Canapes and finger buffet.
- The John Bunyan Menu (on a pre-cruise order basis) offers a selection of on-board catering, which includes Breakfasts, Ploughman's Lunches, Cream Teas, afternoon Tea Platters, Home-made Cakes, Fish & Chip Suppers and more. We can tailor this to suit your needs and dietary requirements.
- We also have close links with a variety of local riverside hotels/pubs who are able to provide on-board catering, or host your group for pre/post cruise catering (subject to cruise route).
- You can supply your own catering and/or bar if you prefer. There is an additional fee for this.

The John Bunyan Boat has been awarded a food hygiene rating of 5 (Very Good) by the Food Standards Agency.

Please note that we have a strict 'No Glass' Policy on board, all drinks are served in suitable alternatives.



Image for illustrative purposes only.

Cruise Prices

Please contact our Wedding Event Cruise Coordinator for further details, prices and to discuss your requirements.

Contact us

If you wish to discuss your event with us, obtain further details, or explore other cruises that the John Bunyan Boat offers, contact a member of the team on one of the options below and they will be pleased to assist you.



03301 239 511



charters@johnbunyanboat.org



www.johnbunyanboat.org



Postal Address: Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprises Ltd, The Old Chandlery, Priory Marina, Priory Country Park, Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9DJ

The John Bunyan Boat is operated by Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprises Ltd on behalf of: Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, Registered Charity no. 1114294.

