

## INTRODUCTION

These notes are designed to help you enjoy and make the most of your visit to Fellowship Afloat.

## ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

On arrival we will meet you in our car park and assist you with your luggage for the five-minute walk to *Trinity* if you ring 01621 869779 as you arrive in the village. After settling everyone in, we will have some introductions and talk through with the group the rules of the centre and safety aspects.

## FELLOWSHIP AFLOAT STAFF

During your stay, you will be looked after by both permanent staff and sessional volunteers, all of whom are trained and familiar with life on board and the various specialist activities. Appropriate personal checks, which include a CRB disclosure, are made on all new staff.

Fellowship Afloat staff take full responsibility for the organisation of domestic arrangements and activities. The highest priority is given to the safety and comfort of visitors. In matters of safety and discipline, the Director or his deputy's judgement must be accepted as final. Group leaders are expected to support the leadership of Fellowship Afloat.

## GROUP LEADER RESPONSIBILITY

While at Fellowship Afloat, you are responsible for the control and discipline of your group, particularly at night – though Centre staff are always available.

Responsibility for various parts of the programme or times in the day may be delegated to group leaders – this would be agreed by prior arrangement.

Smoking and the consumption of alcohol are not permitted on board.

## ORGANISATION

Each morning at 8.00am, the Fellowship Afloat staff team and group leaders meet together in the 'Lookout' to discuss the day's programme. We also share a brief 'thought for the day' and a few informal

prayers. During this time it will be necessary for you to have one or two leaders supervising the group.

## PROGRAMME DESIGN

It is essential that, prior to the visit, group leaders think seriously about their expectations and requirements for the booking and communicate them to Fellowship Afloat. The programme can then be tailor-made to suit your group. We offer a wide range of activities, such as sailing, powerboating, archery, climbing, raft building, team-building exercises, wide games, art & craft and other sports. One primary factor to be considered is the tide times, as these affect our water activity schedules.

Dinghy sailing usually commences in April and finishes at the end of October. All water activities are run according to the Royal Yachting Association guidelines for teaching and safety practice. We offer the full range of dinghy and powerboat courses.

Many recreational weekend groups do not follow our RYA Certificate course although basic instruction is always given.

All visitors are welcome to participate in the Christian life of the Centre. Sometimes group leaders provide the spiritual input – other times we will take the lead. Typically, we have a 'thought for the day' at breakfast and a service on Sundays. Please talk with us before your visit to discuss the requirements of the spiritual programme.

## ON-BOARD FACILITIES

- **Toilets & Showers.** In addition to the toilets and showers for your group, there is a single toilet and shower for the use of group leaders.
- **For sleeping.** Fibre pillows and pillow-cases are provided for each individual.
- **Coffee & tea.** Facilities are always available in the galley.
- **Washing machine and drying room.** Available for visitors – see a staff member for instructions.

- **Telephone.** A payphone is available on board *Trinity* (01621 869779); you are welcome to use this.
- **Presentations.** Video projector, TV, video, DVD & CD player, whiteboard, OHP and flipchart are available for use. FACT does not supply other stationary materials.

## MEALS

You are invited to sit, along with our staff, amongst the group at meal times. We always wait for everyone to arrive for the meal before starting – even when people are bleary eyed in the morning; one of our staff will organise the saying of grace and introduce the serving arrangements.

After the meal, a few notices will be presented and teams for jobs will be announced. We encourage *everyone* to remain at the table until this point.

Please ensure that any special diets are requested before you visit.

## DAILY JOBS

Fellowship Afloat thrives on enthusiastic participation of visitors; meal times are a focus for some essential but simple tasks:

- laying tables for the meal
- washing-up (with a dishwasher to assist)
- vacuum cleaning the saloon
- removing any rubbish and bringing back a few consumables to the centre.

We will organise the rota and look for the full support of accompanying leaders.

## MOBILE PHONES ETC.

We discourage use of mobile phones, MP3 players and iPods etc. on board; apart from the obvious distraction, they easily get lost and broken.

## SHOP AND POCKET MONEY

We have a small souvenir shop on board, items 30p - £7.50, also *Trinity* garments – T-shirts £8.00 - £10.00, baseball caps £6.00. Sweets and drinks can be bought in the village.

We suggest pocket money should be about £5.00 - £10.00.

If an RYA certificate course is followed and a Log Book and certificate are required, this cost will be charged extra to the booking.

## SUGGESTED KIT LIST

(bring in a soft bag):

- sleeping bag
- 2 towels
- warm jacket
- indoor and outdoor shoes
- warm jumpers/sweatshirts
- hat / scarf / gloves (for cold weather)
- at least one complete change of clothes
- washing kit
- nightwear
- wellies

FOR WATER BASED ACTIVITIES you will need:

- soft-soled shoes e.g. trainers
- tracksuit trousers or leggings (not jeans)
- plenty of warm layers
- a woolly hat or cap / gloves
- sun cream

## PROGRAMME EVALUATION

We are constantly striving to improve and develop our service so, at the end of your stay, we will ask you to fill in and return to us a feedback form with any comments and suggestions for the future.

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