Events Programme 2026

Steampunk Weekender	18 & 19 April
Miniature Steam Weekend	2 & 3 May
Mutiny at the Port: Pirate Weekender	16 & 17 May
Ellesmere Port Football: Our Heritage	24 May
50th Anniversary Celebrations	13 & 14 June
Vintage Vehicle Weekend	27 & 28 June
World Chocolate Day	5 July
Canal Town Summer Sundays	(every Sunday from 19 July – 30 August)
FREE Heritage Open Day	12 September
Miniature Steam Weekend	24 & 25 October
Halloween & Half Term	24 October – 1 November
****Festive Boat Trips & Santa's Grotto**	5 December – 24 December

All events are included within your Annual Pass except for those marked with **



Follow us on social media for all our latest updates:

/NationalWaterwaysMuseum

@nwmuseumellesmereport

All information correct at the time of printing (March 2026). Please check the website for the latest information on admission charges, opening times and special events.

Getting there

From the M53, Junction 9 follow the brown signs for 'Boat Museum'. The National Waterways Museum (formerly called 'Boat Museum') is an accessible, dog friendly visitor attraction.

Free parking including accessible bays

Train station: 15 min. walk from Ellesmere Port station.

South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FW
T: 0151 355 5017
E: nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk

canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Opening times: 10am – 4pm

Spring & Summer: Open 7 days

Admission

Book online for discounted tickets.

Return as many times as you like for a whole year with an Annual Pass.

	Adult 16+	Conc. 65+	Child 6-15	Child under 6	Family of 4
Day Ticket (on the door)	£13.25	£11.95	£9.95	FREE	£32.50
Annual Pass (on the door)	£25.50	£23.50	£18.50	FREE	£58.50

Canal & River Trust

We're the charity protecting canal heritage

From historic boats and ships to listed buildings, your support keeps our waterways collection alive at the National Waterways Museum.

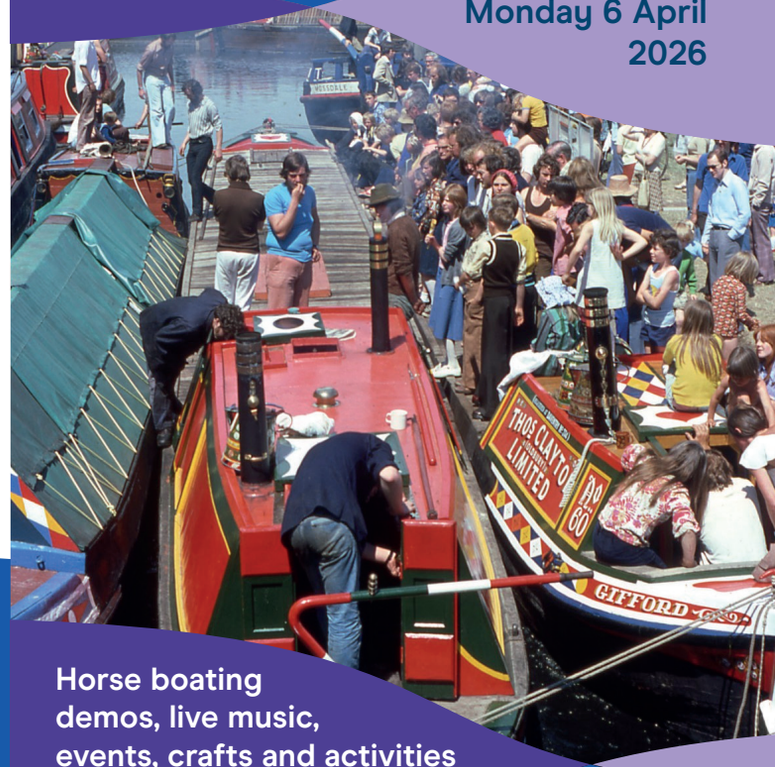
Help protect canals
canalrivertrust.org.uk

Canal & River Trust

National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port

Easter Historic Boat Gathering

Friday 3 - Monday 6 April 2026



Horse boating demos, live music, events, crafts and activities

Enjoy a fun-packed weekend of things to see and do!

Image: The Boat Museum in 1976



Arrival of Historic Narrowboats

A unique flotilla of historic narrowboats will arrive at the museum followed by working boat-horse Flower pulling GIFFORD; a fine example of a 'tar' boat and celebrating her centenary in 2026.
Friday 3 April: From 11am - with Flower and Gifford expected to make their entrance around 12pm.



Boat Trips

Enjoy a relaxing cruise along the Shropshire Union Canal on the accessible trip boat *Over the Rainbow*.
Book at the Welcome Desk.
Adults & Children: £5, Under 1s: FREE
Saturday, Sunday & Monday
11am | 12pm | 1pm | 2pm | 3pm



LIVE Music & Dance

Conwy Sea Dogs: **Friday & Monday**
Kinnerton Morris Men: **Saturday**
The Charwallahs: **Saturday, Sunday & Monday**
Salford Steel: **Sunday**
See blackboard in reception for times.

Lock & Horse boating Demonstrations

Lock Demonstrations with historic narrowboat GIFFORD
Saturday: 11.40am | **Sunday & Monday:** 2.40pm
Horse boating Harnessing
Saturday: 2pm | **Sunday & Monday:** 11am
Horse boating Lock Demonstration & De-harnessing
Flower leading GIFFORD
Saturday: 2.40pm | **Sunday & Monday:** 11.40am



DON'T MISS!

Canal Art with Phil Speight

Enjoy a FREE illustrated talk and demonstration exploring the history of traditional canal art with expert canal boat artist Phil Speight. Watch a step-by-step demonstration of how the iconic narrowboat roses are painted. **Island Warehouse Activity Room**
Saturday & Sunday: 12pm & 2pm
Approx. 1 hour session

Coal on the Cut – Book Signings Meet author John Jackson, a former floating coal merchant who worked the canals with his wife Jenny aboard their historic boat Roach. **Toll House Kitchen**
Saturday & Sunday: 1pm & 3pm

Children's Activities taking place around the site include a Historic Narrowboat Trail, Store Detectives, a Water Safety activity, crafts and other self-led activities.

Vintage Arcade Visit our unique working collection of restored vintage arcade machines and coin-operated novelties dating from 1920s to 1971.

DROP IN ACTIVITIES

Engines in Action See the glory of steam in action in our Power Hall where volunteers will tell you about our collection of water-themed engines.

Canalside Life Meet the residents of Porters Row and discover the hidden stories of dockside living. Step inside four period cottages, each bringing a different chapter of history to life.

Traditional Canal Craft Demonstrations See traditional crafts brought to life across the site.

Heritage Collection Explore our Island Warehouse Open Store.

Open Store Guided Tours Taking place all weekend. See blackboards for details.

Photogrammetry Suite Discover how the Collections team uses cutting-edge technology to create detailed 3D digital models of the waterways collection. Thanks to the players of People's Postcode Lottery. **Top Floor, Island Warehouse**
Saturday & Sunday: 11am – 2pm

Exhibition & Talk to the Archivist Explore this year's theme celebrating 50 Years of the National Waterways Museum (1976-2026). **Waterways Archive**
Friday: 12 – 3pm **Saturday & Sunday:** 11am – 3pm

Visit the Waterside Café (10am - 5pm) serving a wide range of food, hot and cold drinks, as well as takeaway snacks and ice creams.

Sample our range of beers and craft ales in the Toll House Inn (opens 11.00am with last orders at 5.00pm)

