



## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

30 November 2015

### **LEE & STORT BOAT CO TO RUN QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK TRIP BOATS**

The Canal & River Trust and the London Legacy Development Corporation have reappointed Lee & Stort Boat Co. Ltd to manage and run a trip boat service in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Following a competitive tender, Lee & Stort Boat Co will continue to run its existing trip boat tours within the Park from the Stratford Waterfront Pontoon which, since August 2014, has seen over 25,000 people get onto the Olympic waterways on board over 1,000 trips.

Mike Grimes, head of boating at the Trust, said: “These ‘lost waterways’ of east London were brought back to life in the run up to the London 2012 Games. The trip boat service will continue to allow the thousands of people who visit the Park every year the chance to get on the water and see the transformation. Lee & Stort Boat Co have put together a fantastic proposal and, coupled with their experience on these waterways, are well placed to create something really special that locals and visitors alike are able to enjoy.”

Lee & Stort Boat Co are experienced trip boat operators and have been running fully accessible boat tours and trips on the Rivers Lee and Stort since 2012 (and within Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park since 2014). Their reappointment comes ahead of the planned reopening of the Bow Back Rivers in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in 2016.

Mark Sillitoe, managing director at Lee & Stort Boat Co, said: “We’re delighted our tender at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park was successful and are looking forward to our continued work with Canal & River Trust and the London Legacy Development Corporation to evolve our operations over the coming years. We are planning on increasing the number of boats and trips during peak season and will continue to support the local community offering discounts to schools, groups and local residents.

Canal & River Trust, Toll House, Delamere Terrace, London, W2 6ND

T: 0203 3204 4514 E: [press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk) W: [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) Twitter: [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

“In addition, we’d like to create a visitor centre, café, classroom and event space at the pontoon, and use part of the pontoon as an un-powered paddle hub for activities such as rowing, canoeing, paddle boarding and day boats. We’d love to see festivals, guest operators like The Floating Cinema and flotillas with cruising clubs organising events with us and celebrating this wonderful water space.”

For more information about Lee & Stort Boat Co please visit: <http://www.leeandstortboats.co.uk/>

**ENDS**

**For further media requests please contact:**

Fran Read, national press officer, Canal & River Trust  
m 07796 610 427 e [fran.read@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:fran.read@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**Notes to editors:**

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation’s third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms