



PRESS RELEASE

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£158,000 invested to repair St Pancras canal this winter

A five-week programme of repairs that will see two lock gates craned out of the Regent's Canal in King's Cross has been confirmed for the new year.

The work will be carried out by the Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the waterway – in order to replace the ageing gates at St Pancras Lock, a short walk from the thriving Granary Square.

Work will begin in the second week of January and last until mid-February. Overall costs are expected to top £158,000 and will ensure that the lock can continue to operate effectively for the tens of thousands of boaters that use it each year.

Each lock gate weighs three tonnes, the equivalent of a fully grown male giraffe.

As part of the project members of the public will be invited to walk inside the drained lock at a special open day weekend on 4 and 5 February. People will have a unique, behind-the-scenes look at the two centuries old structure, with guided tours from the Trust's engineers and heritage experts.

There will also be the chance to see some of the items salvaged from the canal bed, when the draining takes place.

The Trust will be spending over £43million this winter to repair and restore waterways across the country. Last year the construction team unearthed some weird and wonderful items when it drained the canals in preparation for essential works. Items included a bag of bullets, a WW2 hand grenade, 16ft dead python and a Volkswagen Camper Van.

Graham Smith, Canal & River Trust supervisor, who will be leading the project at St Pancras Lock, says: "We're delighted to be able to get this work completed at St Pancras Lock, and it'll be great to hold the open day weekend, which we know are really popular. This project is a great example of the type of work we need to do to keep the canals in London open for business, at a time when more people than ever are boating or visiting the towpath. Each lock is completely bespoke and when you're swinging multi-tonne lock

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gates through the air, there are a lot of technical considerations. We look forward to getting started and encourage people to pay us a visit once the lock is drained.”

To find out more about the Open Day programme and the events happening near you visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/open-days

Ends

Notes to editors

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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.

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