



PRESS RELEASE

5 December 2016

ILLUMINATED BOATS LIGHT UP FOXTON LOCKS

Families are being encouraged to visit the famous Foxton Locks in Leicestershire and enjoy a spectacular boat festival along the Grand Union Canal.

Taking place on Saturday 17 December from 3 - 8pm, the event which is being organised by the charity, Canal & River Trust will include lantern making workshops and carol singing at the Boiler House Museum, festive boat trips, the Harborough Silver Band plus a variety of hot food stalls.

The highlight of the event will be the illuminated boat parade with pyrotechnics and a fire sculpture at 6pm. The parade will include a number of narrowboats all beautifully lit up with a variety of sparkly Christmas lights and, thanks to the generosity of Grand Union Narrowboats, the winner of the 'best dressed' boat will also win a £250 gift voucher.

Foxton Locks is home to a staircase of 10 locks which enables boats to navigate up and down the hill at Foxton. Built in 1815 the locks are 200 years old and around 4000 boats travel through this famous flight each year. The site is also home to the now disused boat lift which was originally designed to speed up travel through the locks before it fell into disuse in 1911.

Vicky Martin, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "This is the first time we've held a Christmas illuminated boat festival at Foxton Locks and the event promises to be a really fun, festive occasion for local people and the boating community."

For more information on the event visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk. To book your boat into the parade contact Steph Furniss on 07545 616 474.

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For further media requests please contact: Sarah Rudy, National Press Officer on 01908 302 594 or email sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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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

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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