



## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### **TURNERWOOD OPENS ITS GATES FOR A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL**

- Free public open weekend on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March
- A special free evening of fire, dance, music and poetry on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

Members of the public are invited to come and see behind-the-scenes at Lock 38 on the Chesterfield Canal as part of a series of free public open day events being held by the charity Canal & River Trust across England and Wales this winter.

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March between 10am and 4pm, visitors will have the rare opportunity to walk down into the drained 200-year-old Grade II listed lock to see up close the brand new lock gates which have just been fitted. Trust experts will be on hand to explain why and how they are carrying out these essential maintenance works and to talk about the history of the canal. People will also be able to view the works taking place at Lock 37 from the canal bank and talk to engineers about what is happening.

The works at Locks 37 and 38 involve highly skilled craftsmanship from the charity's construction team, their biggest task to replace the lock gates and sill at Turnerwood Feeder Lock 38. The top gates at Feeder Lock 38 and bottom gates at the next lock up, Lock 37, will be replanked to stop them leaking. The frame of the lock gates are fine, so by replanking them the charity can extend the life of the gates by at least five years. The works, which started on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, are expected to take four weeks.

During the weekend visitors will also be able to see a collection of old photographs of the Chesterfield Canal and hear about volunteering opportunities at the charity. Refreshments will be available from the Chesterfield Canal Trust's boat 'Hugh Henshall' which will be moored near Lock 38.

Then for one night only, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March between 6:30 and 9pm, the Turnerwood flight of locks will be transformed by hundreds of giant candles, ingenious engineered fiery sculptures, and come alive with music, dance and spoken word performances, inspired by the space unveiled when the lock was drained, in a unique event to celebrate the 240-year-old Chesterfield Canal.

Sean McGinley, waterway manager for the Canal & River Trust, says: "The weekend is a chance for people to see their canal in a new light, stepping down into history to see the C21st repairs to an C18th structure. By showcasing this work to the public, and giving them a different perspective at the evening showcase, we can give people a glimpse into the craftsmanship of the waterways' original 18<sup>th</sup> Century design but also show how the charity is giving them a new lease of life by using the space for arts and cultural events which bring communities together. We hope this will inspire more people to support us in unlocking the potential of every stretch of our canal and river."

The maintenance work at Locks 38 and Lock 37 are part of a £43million nationwide programme to repair and restore waterways across England and Wales between November 2016 and March 2017. The five-month programme will see nearly 200 different works take place across 2,000 miles of canals and rivers. Many of the biggest projects are carried out during the winter months to minimise the impact on waterway users.

The free public open weekend is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 10am to 4pm both days. Turnerwood Flight Night-time Transformation is a free event and runs from 6:30pm-9pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Shireoaks Row, S81 8LW. Shireoaks is a one kilometre walk from Turnerwood feeder Lock. Shireoaks train station is right next to the canal. Sturdy footwear is recommended for walking in the drained lock chamber, if footwear is deemed inappropriate entry will not be allowed. Please wear warm clothing and footwear and bring a torch to the evening of arts.

**To find out more about the Restoration & Repairs programme and the open days happening across the country go to <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/open-days>**

**ENDS**

**For further media requests, interviews or images please contact:**

Claire Risino, Campaigns Manager, Canal & River Trust

T: 07785 920 863 E: [Claire.risino@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Claire.risino@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**Notes to editors:**

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of canals, rivers and docks 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.

Locks have varying numbers of gates – at the 'upstream' end of locks some have two gates whilst others only have one, with the same applying at the 'downstream' end.

The new lock gates are hand-crafted using traditional methods in the Trust's specialist workshops at Bradley in the West Midlands and Stanley Ferry in Yorkshire. A single lock gate can take up to 20 days to make and has a working life of between 25 and 30 years. In order to be watertight they need to be built very precisely, fitting tightly to the masonry of the lock walls and to each other.

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