



Canal &  
River Trust

## PRESS RELEASE

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22 August

Join the fun at *East London Waterways Festival* in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park this August bank holiday

**DATE:** Monday 28 August

**TIME:** 12noon-6pm (evening film screening - **doors open from 7.45 pm**)

**LOCATION:** Carpenters Road Lock, QE Olympic Park (nearest postcode E9 5EN)

**INFO:** <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/east-london-waterways-festival>

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is hosting a major new waterway event this August, with the *East London Waterway Festival* taking place on Monday, 28th August.

It is being run by the Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the waterways within the park – alongside the London Legacy Development Corporation, St Pancras Cruising Club and the Inland Waterways Association.

The event is being held to celebrate everything the local rivers and canals offer to people in the area. There will also be particular focus on the restoration of Carpenters Road Lock, a £1.8 million project in the heart of the Park which is one of the final pieces of a ten-year programme to regenerate the Bow Back Rivers and preserve an important part of London's industrial heritage.

The completed lock site will form the centrepiece of the festival, which will include a boat flotilla, dragon boat racing, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, rowing, free boat trips and pedalos. There will also be live music and dance performances, activities for children, heritage walks, food stalls and more. In the evening Nomad Cinema will be hosting a screening in the lock, of the film '*How we used to Live*' and introduced by the writer Travis Elborough. Most activities are free, but some are pre-booked, for more information visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/carpentersroadlock](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/carpentersroadlock)

Joanna Steele, Canal & River Trust heritage activities officer, said: "Carpenters Road Lock is a reminder of the local history and how the waterways were key in bringing industry to the area. The re-opening of the lock and stadium island loop will bring a new chapter, where people can enjoy a clean and beautiful stretch of waterway. The festival will host lots of opportunities to be close to the water with stand-up paddle boarding, rowing, dragon boat racing as well as boat trips through the lock itself. To compliment the waterway activity, we'll have a range of live music, performances, and children's activities throughout the day, as well as an evening screening in the lock. It's definitely going to offer a chance to experience the waterways and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in a new way, and we'd encourage everyone to put the event in their diaries."

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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

Paul Brickell, London Legacy Development Corporation, said: “The fantastic heritage of the waterways is something we want to celebrate as we continue to develop Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The restoration of Carpenters Road Lock is a great example of this. It will provide a new focal point for the waterways and a new location for visitors to enjoy. The East London Waterway Festival will be a chance to celebrate this moment and a perfect reason to visit the Park at the height of summer.”

The Carpenters Road Lock project is led by the Canal & River Trust and includes £680,000 funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £100,000 from London Legacy Development Corporation and £4,500 from the Inland Waterways Association.

Carpenters Road Lock is significant from an engineering point of view, as it had the only ‘double radial lock gates’ in the country. Built in the 1930s, this design included two convex-shaped gates that lifted up vertically to enable boats to pass through. In the second half of the 20th-century, the Bow Back Rivers fell out of use and the lock became unusable, with the last passage by boat through the lock recorded in the 1960s. The advent of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games saw major works bringing new life to the waterways in what is now Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

If you would like any more information about the *East London Waterway Festival*, including how to volunteer or contribute to one of the many activities, contact [joanna.steele@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:joanna.steele@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Any boaters keen to take part in the Festival are encouraged to get in touch with [waterways@queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk](mailto:waterways@queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk)

For more information about the waterways in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the Carpenters Road Lock project and to pre-book activities for the festival visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/carpentersroadlock](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/carpentersroadlock)

## Ends

## Notes to editors

For more media information please contact [joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk) 020 3204 4410

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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