

**Roundhouse,
Birmingham**



Canal &
River Trust

 **National Trust**

PRESS RELEASE

7 November 2017

TAKE A 'WALKING TOUR WITH A DIFFERENCE' AROUND BIRMINGHAM'S STREETS AND CANALS

A series of guided walks is about to give local people the chance to visit one of Birmingham's most interesting and iconic historic buildings ahead of major restoration works starting in the New Year.

The series of 'Walkshops' will enable people to enjoy a walking tour with a difference as they explore the secret stories and murky history of the Roundhouse and Birmingham's famous canals. The Walkshops are being hosted by Roundhouse Birmingham, a partnership of the Canal & River Trust and National Trust.

Led by Secret City Arts the evening walks, one aimed at families and another at adults, will enable visitors to create stories from the things they find on their walk.

Stomping Stories, which is aimed at families, will create tall tales from clues spotted around the city's canals and streets. The adult walk, *Dark and Wintry Tales*, will enable people to explore hidden nooks and crannies to create dark, atmospheric stories.

Each circular walk will start and finish at the Roundhouse where restoration works are due to begin in early January. The project, made possible through a £2.5m National Lottery grant, will see the Grade II* listed building transformed into a city base from which to explore Birmingham's canals by foot, bike or boat.

Chris Maher, visitor experience development manager for Roundhouse Birmingham, said; "We're really looking forward to the Walkshops and we hope lots of people join us for a very different kind of guided walk.

"The Roundhouse is a really atmospheric place, particularly as darkness falls. We want people to join us as we venture out onto the city's canals and streets to create the most amazing stories from the things we spot.

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**

and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



LOTTERY FUNDED

“it promises to be a great experience so we’d encourage people to book their place, wrap up warm and get a totally different perspective on the city.”

The Roundhouse was built in 1874 by the Birmingham Corporation and was originally used as stables and stores. Designed by local architect W.H. Ward, the horse-shoe shaped building has become a real landmark within the city but over the last ten years the majority of it has been steadily falling into disrepair.

As well as offering a base from which to explore the canal network, plans for the Roundhouse include a café, a cycle hire and repair workshop, volunteering opportunities and a shared working space. It’s anticipated that the Roundhouse will attract over 50,000 people a year, both from the local community and visitors from further afield.

Details of the Walkshops:

Stomping Stories (family walk)

Tuesday 14th November, 4pm – 5.30pm

Saturday 2nd December, 2.30pm – 4pm

Tickets: Adults £8, Children £6

Dark and Wintry Tales (adult walk)

Tuesday 14th November, 6pm – 7.30pm

Saturday 2nd December, 4.30pm – 6pm

Tickets: £8

To find more out more details or to book tickets go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/roundhouse-birmingham-15628258347> or www.facebook.com/BirminghamRoundhouse/

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Notes to editors:

The Roundhouse is a pioneering partnership between the Canal & River Trust and the National Trust to bring an important Birmingham landmark back to life through an innovative blend of heritage and enterprise. In doing so we will ensure its future and inspire people to care about and help us to protect the heritage of Birmingham.

Our aim is to restore this iconic, Grade II Listed building and provide a hub from which to explore the city and its green spaces by foot, by bike and on water. The Roundhouse will offer stimulating opportunities to volunteer and develop skills as well as exciting ways for local people to connect with their heritage and natural environment in new and surprising ways.

www.facebook.com/BirminghamRoundhouse
[@BhamRoundhouse](https://www.instagram.com/BhamRoundhouse)

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 @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms

The **National Trust** looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 775 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For more information and ideas for great value family days out go to: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>

This project is part of the National Trust's new strategy, *Playing Our Part*, that seeks to explore new ways that the conservation and heritage organisation can 'play its part' in the places where people live and 'look after special places for ever, for everyone'.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.

Visit our website, www.hlf.org.uk, and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
#NationalLottery #HLFsupported.

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