



PRESS RELEASE

15 November 2017

ILLUMINATED BOATS TO LIGHT UP FOXTON LOCKS

For the second year running the charity, Canal & River Trust, is holding a festive boat festival at the famous Foxton Locks in Leicestershire.

Taking place alongside the canal on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December from 2pm – 7pm, the event will feature an illuminated water fountain alongside the historic locks, entertainment from a variety of music acts, illuminated boats along the towpath, and a selection of hot food stalls.

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.

Alex Goode, from the Canal & River Trust, said: “Last year was the first time we held this event at Foxton Locks and it was a huge success so we’re delighted we can hold an even bigger and better event this year.

“Foxton Locks is a special place to visit throughout the year and with miles of fairy lights twinkling, Christmas carols being sung and mulled wine being consumed the event will get everyone in the festive mood in time for Christmas.”

Tickets are £5 per person and free for under 12’s. Tickets are available from Monday 20 November by visiting www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/foxton-locks Car parking for the event is at Gallows Field Road. Please note there will be no parking available at Foxton Locks except for disabled visitors. A free park and ride will be operating from Gallows Field Road to Foxton Locks. As the event is outside please ensure you wrap up warm and wear sensible shoes.

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust, including how you can volunteer or donate money to support the work we do visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

ENDS

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

Notes to editors:

List of entertainers and times.

Saturday 16 December

Various times through the evening

Parsnips

The Parsnips contribution to the festival will be:

"An excerpt from a play by Claire Bower, entitled "The Rules of Time Travel". The play explores an underground Victorian Society of Time Travellers."

3pm – 5pm - Jazz and Blues Band

Saturday 16th December 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Dr Len's Jazz and Blues Band. Led by Len Holden. The band plays a mixture of standard jazz tunes and blues favourites. The line-up is saxes, trumpet, keyboards, bass, drums and guitar. The band plays regularly in and around the Harborough area.

Sunday 17 December

Various times through the evening

Market Harborough Drama Society

Market Harborough Drama Society will perform a short extract from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night Dream" in which a small group of Athenian workmen act out a comedy entitled "The Tragic Story of Pyramus and Thisbe".

If the following could be included in the general publicity, we would be grateful. "A full production of A Midsummer's Night Dream will be performed at Harborough Theatre from 10th to 14th July next year. Tickets will be on sale from 10th June - by telephone 0333 666 3366 or via the internet at www.harboroughtheatre.com"

5:45pm – 6:25pm - Rock choir

We'll be singing a mix of motown, pop and Rock - exact songs still to be decided but it will be a real variety with some Xmassy ones at the end of our set.

Members of the Harborough Collective will be performing festive music from across the world and through the centuries; from Medieval carols to new versions of traditional Christmas songs, beautiful baroque masterpieces to folk-influenced improvisations.

3pm – 5 pm - Afro City Orchestra

Sunday 17th December 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Afro City Orchestra. Led by Leicester based Ned Newitt, Afro City plays a mainly South African Township music ideal for dancing or just jiggling about to. This is a ten piece band made up of saxes, trumpets, bass, keyboards, guitar, bass and drums. A great sound! The band is Leicester based and plays all over the county.

Harborough Collective

Members of the Harborough Collective will be performing festive music from across the world and through the centuries; from Medieval carols to new versions of traditional Christmas songs, beautiful baroque masterpieces to folk-influenced improvisations.

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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