



PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 15 November 2017

CANAL ARTS AND HERITAGE PROJECT LAUNCHED IN MARKET DRAYTON

MEDIA INVITATION

Event: To celebrate the installation of two new canal murals. Attending will be representatives from the Canal & River Trust, Market Drayton Community Partnership and pupils from Longlands Primary School.

Time: Monday 20 November 2018, 1.30pm

Place: Market Drayton - Lord's Bridge (no 64), Shropshire Union Canal towpath where it is crossed by A53 road bypass. Parking available nearby on Waterside Drive, Market Drayton, TF9 1HU.

Contact: Lynn Pegler, Canal & River Trust Press Office, 07783 686246

The Shropshire Union Canal through Market Drayton is to get a major facelift, thanks to an innovative arts project launched by Market Drayton Community Partnership and the Canal & River Trust charity

Plans are in place to develop an arts and heritage trail and interpretation boards along the town centre towpath. Organisers are awaiting a grant funding application from the Big Lottery's Awards for All scheme.

As a first stage in the major project, local artists, supported by a grant from the Shropshire Housing Group, have been working with Longlands Primary School and local residents to create two amazing murals which will brighten the drab concrete road bridge carrying the A53 bypass over the waterway.

Ani Sutton, development & engagement manager with the Canal & River Trust, said: "This is an amazing project which is really going to brighten up the canal towpath through the town centre.

"The Canal & River Trust exists to help people to enjoy their local canal, love being in the fresh air and by water, whether they're walking, jogging, cycling, angling or boating. The Shropshire Union Canal has so much to offer and the arts project is an innovative way to add an extra layer of enjoyment in celebrating the beautiful rural waterway."

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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

Dr Richard Priestley, chair of the Market Drayton Community Partnership, commented: “We are delighted that the first phase of the arts and heritage trail is now established and look forward to future phases being actioned. It is very nice to be able to thank all those who participated in this work and supported us in helping to make this stretch of the canal towpath more welcoming for the benefit of boaters, walkers and visitors.”

- For more information about how to volunteer or donate to the Canal & River Trust, check out www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or call the customer services team on 0303 040 4040.

ENDS

For further media requests please contact: Lynn Pegler on 07783 686246
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Notes to editors:

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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