



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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27 November 2017

### **ILLUMINATED BOATS TO LIGHT UP MILTON KEYNES**

People living in Milton Keynes have the chance to watch a festive illuminated boat parade along the Grand Union Canal and join in the celebrations for Milton Keynes' 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The parade is part of the Illuminated Boat Festival organised by the charity, Canal & River Trust, taking place on the canal on the 2 – 3 December. This two-day event on the Grand Union Canal aims to show off the waterways to the people of Milton Keynes and encourage them to visit and spend some time along the canal in this special birthday year.

Although all the free tickets for the event have now been allocated there is still chances to see the boat parade from outside the festival area.

On Saturday 2 December between 5pm – 6pm local people will get the chance to watch two parades of canal boats, decked in twinkling fairy lights and Christmas decorations, as they head out along the canal. The boats will be leaving the Lionhearts Cruising Club and Milton Keynes Marina and head towards Campbell Park.

As the boats weave their way through Milton Keynes, spectators can join in the fun along the towpath and from bridges that cross the canal as the boats pass on by.

Emily Nicholas, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "We've had a fantastic response to our Illuminated Boat Festival and have given away 10,000 free tickets. The event promises to be a really fun, festive occasion for local people and the boating community.

"For those who didn't managed to get a ticket there will still be lots of places outside the event where you can see the boats as they pass along the canal and still be part of the festive birthday celebrations."

The event wouldn't have been possible without the support from local volunteers, organisations like The Parks Trust, and funding from MK Community Foundation.

For more information on the Canal & River Trust including how you can volunteer or donate money to support our work [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk).

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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

## **ENDS**

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

### **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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