



PRESS RELEASE

1 December 2017

CANAL & RIVER TRUST CELEBRATES WATERWAYS HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING WITH WEEK OF FREE ACTIVITIES

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that looks after 2,000 miles of waterways across England & Wales, is inviting visitors with a National Lottery ticket or scratchcard to experience free special heritage events across its waterways between 11 and 17 December as part of a nationwide campaign to thank National Lottery players.

The rich industrial heritage of the nation's canals and rivers has been preserved, and in some cases rescued, by the contribution from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). In just five years, the Trust has been awarded approximately £13 million for 18 heritage projects across the network and, since the start of the National Lottery, the waterways of England and Wales have benefited from tens of millions of pounds towards vital heritage repairs and restoration works.

Now some of the buildings and waterways that have been supported by HLF funding will be offering people the chance to experience waterways heritage first hand, with a variety of free offers and behind the scenes tours. These include:

Free offers

- Have a free tea or coffee on 16 and 17 December at **Anderton Boat Lift**, which received £3.3 million to restore it
- Free entry between 11 and 17 December at the **National Waterways Museum Gloucester**, which benefitted from £994,000 in funding
- The **National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port**, which used £790,000 to restore the working boats *Mosssdale & George*, is offering free entry between 11 and 17 December
- Come along to **Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum** between 11 and 17 December for free entry to the museum, which received £67,000 for interpretation

Canal & River Trust, Toll House, Delamere Terrace, London, W2 6ND

T: 0203 3204 4514 E: press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Twitter: [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)

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

Behind the scenes

- Explore the **Roundhouse** in Birmingham on Tuesday 12 December before its £2.5 million renovation in 2018. Book on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/roundhouse-guided-tours-national-lottery-thankstoyou-event-tickets-40139091102>
- Come to the **Montgomery Canal** on Wednesday 13 December for a special behind the scenes tour of the construction of the £1.2m nature reserves at Aston Locks in Oswestry. Book on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aston-nature-reserves-guided-tour-tickets-40836399771>

Guided walks

- **Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal**, from Brecon Basin to Watton Limekilns which were transformed with a £65,000 grant. Tuesday 12 December, 11am to 12 pm, meeting at Theatr Brycheiniog – Canal Wharf, Brecon Powys, LD3 7EW. Bookings can be made online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walk-talk-guided-tour-of-brecon-lime-kilns-tickets-40841371642>
- A 6.5-mile circular guided walk on the **Pocklington Canal** which has received almost £500,000 in HLF funding. Thursday 14 December, 10am to 1pm, meeting outside the Melbourne Arms pub, Main Street, Melbourne Village YO42 4QJ. Bookings can be made online at <http://pocklingtoncanal.eventbrite.com>

Richard Parry, chief executive at the Trust, said: “The waterways the Canal & River Trust takes care of lie at the heart of the nation’s heritage. They are the arteries that fuelled the Industrial Revolution and are fantastic examples of working heritage that is still in use today. The buildings, locks, bridges, wharves and aqueducts that we look after need constant care and attention to preserve and, where necessary, repair them.

“The support we’ve received from players of the National Lottery has made a huge difference to some of the most memorable sights on our canals and rivers, as well as less-known but no less loved places. This December we’re saying thank you for the transformations this funding has helped us achieve. Come along and experience for free a taste of what makes our historic waterways so special.”

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said: “December is a wonderful time to experience the UK’s rich, diverse and exciting heritage, which has been transformed by more than £7bn National Lottery funding since 1994. This is a small gesture of thanks and a way of giving something back to the people who buy tickets.”

For information about the Heritage Lottery Fund *Gem in the Landscape* project, visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/pocklington-canal

For details of how to support the Canal & River Trust by volunteering visit:
<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer/opportunities>

ENDS

For further media requests please contact:

Fran Read, national press officer, Canal & River Trust
m 07796 610 427 e fran.read@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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

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. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLottery, #HLFsupported and #ThanksToYou.