



PRESS RELEASE

2nd March 2018

CAN YOU HELP TELL THE STORY OF THE 200-YEAR-OLD POCKLINGTON CANAL?

PEOPLE URGED TO COLLECT, ARCHIVE AND SHARE MEMORIES AND PHOTOS

The 9.5-mile Pocklington Canal is 200 years old this summer, and as part of the celebrations the Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the waterway, wants to share its story and show how people have enjoyed the canal over the years.

Authorisation to build the Pocklington Canal was given by parliament in 1815, and on 30th July 1818 it was officially opened, at a cost of £32,695. However, after three successful decades, the railway arrived, marking the beginning of the end for transporting goods by the waterway.

The canal fell into disrepair for many years, but is now thriving again thanks to the Trust and Pocklington Canal Amenity Society, with a whole host of restoration and enhancement work taking place over the last few decades to bring the waterway back to life.

As part of the bicentenary activities, the Trust is going to be collating and sharing the stories of the Pocklington Canal, showcasing how it went from an essential but short-lived transport link, to a protected natural habitat, boaters' haven and much-loved community open space.

Volunteers are needed to help gather the stories and archive material ahead of the bicentenary exhibition in the summer. They will receive dedicated training from the Trust's archivist John Benson at a workshop on Tuesday 13th March from 2pm to 5pm, with further support as the project develops.

Lizzie Dealey, Pocklington Canal project officer at Canal & River Trust, said: "Pocklington Canal had a short lifespan as a commercial transport route, and sadly spent many years in decline, but thanks to PCAS and the Trust it is now a well-used and much-loved waterway, not only by boaters but also by people on the towpath and a wide array of wildlife.

"We're looking forward to helping people discover the stories of the canal through the years and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has a tale to share about their experiences on or by the water, as well as people who would like to help us compile this special history archive."

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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

For more details about volunteering for the oral history project and to reserve a space on the workshop, visit: <https://goo.gl/YuFgLF>.

Anyone with an interesting anecdote, fact or memory about Pocklington Canal, or any images or memorabilia, can email lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Find out more about the Pocklington Canal bicentenary celebrations and how to get involved with looking after the waterway at: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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For further information, images, and interviews, please contact:

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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.

Find out more about our work at: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk