

## RESTORATION FOR ROUNDHOUSE IN BIRMINGHAM BEGINS

Work has begun on the restoration of the Roundhouse in Birmingham, the jewel in the crown of Birmingham's waterways. The work will ensure the future of this magnificent, one-of-a-kind building is secure, inspiring a new generation to explore the waterways and delve into the history of Birmingham and its canals.

Built in 1874 the Grade II\* listed Roundhouse is tucked next to the Birmingham Mainline Canal very close to the centre of the City and was originally used as stables and stores for the Birmingham Corporation. Designed by local architect W.H. Ward the horseshoe shaped building is a unique and beautiful Birmingham landmark.

The building is being brought to life by a partnership of the Canal & River Trust and National Trust, made possible through a £2.5m National Lottery Heritage Fund grant and funding of £196,000 from Historic England. Due to reopen in Spring 2020 the Roundhouse will be an exciting space for the local community and a focal point from which to explore Birmingham's canals by foot, bike or boat.

The restoration works will include strengthening and restoring the roof, repairing and re-laying the cobbled courtyard and installing new 'feature' windows giving views over the canal.

When finished the Roundhouse along with the Distillery - Birmingham's newest Gin distillery which is located next door - will be a fantastic place for local people and visitors from further afield. It will create jobs and volunteering opportunities as well as promoting skills and encouraging healthy lifestyles by offering people of all ages and abilities fun and active ways to enjoy the city.

Stuart Mills, from Canal & River Trust said; "The Roundhouse is a really beautiful and unusual building right in the heart of the city centre and we are looking forward to the

**Press release**



# RÖUNDHOUSE

BIRMINGHAM

day we can welcome visitors and help them to explore its history as well as the tranquil canals in Birmingham.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do in the next few months, but this is a really exciting chapter for the Roundhouse. I hope local people enjoy seeing the building transform and come and visit us when we’re back open.”

Lucy Reid, from the National Trust, said: ““Once a place that was alive with the sounds of the lamplighters, labourers and horses from the City’s Public Works department, it’s great that the Roundhouse will soon once again be alive with the sound of people.

“We’d like to thank the individuals, partners, supporters and funders who’ve worked with us so far, and who have played such a major part in helping us to shape our plans – all of which are aimed at bringing a new purpose to this iconic Birmingham building, for the people of Birmingham.”

Vanessa Harbar, Head of the National Lottery Heritage Fund West Midlands said: “We’re delighted to see restoration works get underway at Birmingham’s iconic-but-underused Roundhouse. This is a major industrial building at the heart of the city’s canal network and we look forward to seeing it transformed into a city base for exploring Birmingham’s revitalised canals – all thanks to funding made possible by National Lottery players.”

Louise Brennan, Historic England’s Regional Director for the Midlands said: “The Roundhouse is a unique and evocative building, and central to the story of Birmingham’s role in the Industrial Revolution. The city has more miles of canal than Venice, and the Roundhouse tells the story of how these waterways changed the way we work and live.

“Historic England is delighted to be supporting a project that will see this important historic building found a new and exciting use, and will ensure the building continues to play its part at the centre of Birmingham’s canal network.”

Various events will be held during the works phase to allow local people and school children the chance to see the progress being made and find out more about the



building. To find out more about the Roundhouse and to see when these events are happening visit [www.roundhousebirmingham.org.uk](http://www.roundhousebirmingham.org.uk).

During the works the Distillery and terrace area will be open as normal.

## ENDS

Notes to editors: For more information please contact Sarah Rudy, Comms & Campaigns Manager at the Canal & River Trust on 01908 302 584 / 07788 691 219 or email [sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

The Roundhouse is a Birmingham landmark, brought back to life by a new kind of joint venture between the Canal & River Trust and the National Trust, and made possible by a £2.5million grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Built in 1874, this Grade II listed building is special in many ways, including its sweeping horseshoe shape, its role in the industrial history of our city, and its location – at the heart of Birmingham’s canal network. When it opens, the Roundhouse will be a lively hub for the community - a place of character, connections and adventure. There will be creative office space for rent, a cafe, a programme of events including hidden history tours, as well as bike and kayak hire. Find out more at [www.roundhousebirmingham.org.uk](http://www.roundhousebirmingham.org.uk).

The **Canal & River Trust** cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a difference to people’s lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

The **National Trust** looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 775 miles of coastline and hundreds of historic places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Birmingham we are working in partnership with others to celebrate, help care for and protect a range of places and outdoors spaces that are important to local people, and of which the City can be proud. For more information go to <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>



## About the **National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.HeritageFund.org.uk](http://www.HeritageFund.org.uk).

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