

In this update: museums update, hand wipes information, river by radio and more online talks.

Dear all,

Welcome to the Weekly Update. In the first week of the summer holidays, we've undoubtedly seen busier waterways as more people get away where they can including to two of our museums which have reopened this week. Thank you to all who've been a part of this. The talks programme seems to continue to go down well but we know that we're now running talks when more people are increasingly out during the day. We're looking at changing the timing of these, potentially to some evening talks as we aim to make them as accessible as possible.

Click [here](#) for this week's video message from Chief Exec. This week Richard talks about keeping the network open, the Waterway Charities Appeal and the limited re-opening of our larger offices this autumn.

As usual, a copy of this update will be available in [MyVolunteering](#) as well as July issues of The Source newsletter. For those of you without access to the Trust's Gateway intranet, if you would like to view the information hub for coronavirus you can please use [this link](#).

A message from Julie Sharman

This week has marked another step forward in the reopening of the Trust. We saw three of our main attractions reopen on Monday; both National Waterways Museums and Trevor Basin Visitor Centre. It has been fantastic to see the three sites reopen so smoothly, with a steady flow of visitors at each one.

Feedback has been really positive so far, with visitors enjoying the experiences on offer and everyone feeling safe with the Covid safety measures we have put in place. A huge well done

to all those involved with the attractions' reopening.

Over the next few weeks we look forward to welcoming back some more colleagues from furlough leave, and others who will make a move to returning to full-time work as well. As we continue to see some government restrictions ease, I would like to remind everyone to continue to stay vigilant in their protection against Covid-19 and to follow the Trust's guidelines and protocols. All returning colleagues should book onto a Covid 2020 Toolbox Talk when they return. Volunteers are also undergoing similar training.

It's great to continue to see our volunteers return to the Trust. With an increasing number of Volunteer Lock Keepers and partner groups back, we have also begun to see some small towpath taskforce groups return to volunteering too. Having only been back a couple of weeks at most, they have already had a considerable impact on the beauty of our waterways. They have been doing some fantastic work keeping them clean and tidy, so our canals can be enjoyed by all, at a time where they are at their most valuable for local communities.

Handwipes

A concern has been raised about the effectiveness of packs of washroom wipes that were purchased at the end of March and which may still be in circulation. These were provided as an alternative to wipes marketed as a 'clinical' product when stock fell short.

We have been in touch with our supplier and the manufacturer who have reassured us that these wipes do provide the level of virus sanitization that we need and, based on this, we will not be stopping their use. If anyone remains concerned they can be swapped or new wipes purchased.

National Waterways Museums and Trevor Basin Reopen

Earlier this week we re-opened the doors to our National Waterways Museums at both Gloucester and Ellesmere Port, as well as Trevor Basin Visitor Centre, with a few changes to make sure everyone is kept safe.

Ellesmere Port welcomed a steady flow of visitors. Some areas remain closed as we carefully

wake up our collections and archives but fortunately the annual pass enables visitors to return. The one-way system is helping to guide our visitors around the site and safely make the most of their visit. It's great to see the café open and able to serve takeaway refreshments which are being enjoyed on the canal side in the sun.

The reopening at Gloucester also went smoothly with a pre-booking system in place for visitors to arrange their trip in advance. In another exciting stage of our reopening, we also look forward to welcoming back our front-of-house volunteers to the museum next week.

Trevor Basin had a very busy first day on Monday, with 65 visitors to the centre and many more outside on the World Heritage Site. Destinations supervisor Lynda Slater and the rest of the team put in a huge amount of hard work to allow the site to open so successfully.

We're hoping to be able to re-open our Visitor Centre at Anderton Boat Lift on 1 August.

River by Radio

Sit back, relax and lose yourself with the idyllic and tranquil sounds of the River Weaver as you visualise its surroundings with this wonderful [audio description from Radio Four](#).

Join an Online Talk

Previous talks are available to listen to in MyVolunteering.

Wednesday 29th July 1230-1330: The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site – Heritage Tourism and Management: Steve Bristow (Destination Assistant, Trevor Visitor Centre and VLK, Frankton Locks) and Lynda Slater (Destination Supervisor & Visitor Centre Manager). Pontcysyllte Aqueduct – the so-called “bridge that links” or the “stream in the sky” – completed in 1805 to a design by Thomas Telford is the longest aqueduct in Great Britain and the highest canal aqueduct in the world and is a designated a World Heritage Site. Steve will cover the history of the Ellesmere Canal (as it was known to Thomas Telford and William Jessop), the construction and maintenance of the 336 yards long, 126 ft high, 18-pier Aqueduct spanning the Dee, the tension between safety and heritage and the role of the Destination Assistant. He will be joined by Lynda for the Q&A part of the webinar. Register [here](#)

Thursday 30th July 1230-1330 The Restoration of the Monty and Huddersfield Bob Dewey. He will tell us about how the "impossible" restoration of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal became possible and how work is progressing to complete the restoration of the Montgomeryshire Canal. Register [here](#)

Wednesday 12th August 1230-1330 Mammals of the Waterways – Paul Wilkinson (Senior Ecologist – West Midlands). Did you know that there are around 122 species of mammals in the UK? This talk shall cover the work the Trust and volunteers are doing for just a few of these species that rely on our waterways. (Bats, otters, mink, water voles and water shrews). Register [here](#)

Thursday 13th August 1230-1330: Public Affairs: Aisling Rollason National Policy and Public Affairs Manager. Register [here](#)

Thursday 27th August 1230-1330: Asset Inspectors: Neil Owen.The Asset Inspectors keep an eye on the Trust's towpath, structures, buildings, reservoirs, everything really on a regular basis. As Regional Engineer for the South, Neil will talk through what this involves, how the inspectors do their job, the sorts of actions that they pick up and how they're prioritised. Register [here](#)

Best wishes

Edd Moss

National volunteering manager