

PRESS RELEASE

5 August 2021

BOAT TRIPS RETURN TO STANDEGE TUNNEL

Standedge Tunnel and Visitor Centre has restarted boat trips into Britain's longest, highest and deepest canal tunnel.

The 200-year-old attraction, which is managed by waterways and wellbeing charity Canal & River Trust, is welcoming back visitors following restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of Covid.

The museum gallery, Watersedge Café and outdoor areas are all fully open, and this summer canoe trips at the site are being offered for the first time.

Vicky Levine, Area Operations Manager for Canal & River Trust, said: "We're delighted to be able to run boats into the tunnel again. Although we've had a lot of visitors to the site over recent months, it's great people can experience this wonderful historic attraction in full once more."

The Discovery boat trips into the tunnel last around 30 minutes and as it is operating in a confined environment Covid safety precautions are in place. These include mandatory face coverings for all guests, a minimum age of six and a maximum of 10 people on the boat at any time, with socially distanced seating provided.

Trips can be booked through Eventbrite or contacting the Visitor Centre direct. Unfortunately, Through trips are currently unavailable this summer but we will keep our visitors up to date for when we can operate these once again

The new canoe sessions have been designed specifically for novices, with all equipment and instructors provided. The sessions last 90 minutes and take in the Huddersfield Narrow Canal from Standedge to Lock 42. Bookings are still available for August 24th and 31st, with more sessions planned in the coming weeks.

For more details, please email the visitor's centre at standedge@canalrivertrust.org.uk

New this year for the Visitors Centre is a sensory garden, mini-amphitheatre and picnic area. However, the indoor soft play has now been removed, with the equipment donated to a playgroup in Slaithwaite.

Watersedge Café is also under new management, and is run by local couple Bryan and Lorna Conway.

Vicky added: We want to ensure our staff and guests have an enjoyable and safe experience at this historic attraction, so please follow all of the Covid safe precautions we have put in place.”

Canal & River Trust is also seeking more volunteers at Standedge, including help with driving the boats, general maintenance, gardening and grounds work, tours, talks and general administration.

For more information on Standedge, including volunteering, contact Standedge direct on 01484 844298, or email standedge@canalrivertrust.org.uk

ENDS

For further media requests please contact:

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Notes to Editors

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

Standedge Tunnel is on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and is listed as one of Canal & River Trust’s Seven Wonders of the Waterways. It is nearly three and a half miles long, 196 metres (645 feet) above sea level, and goes 194 metres (638 feet) underneath the Pennines. It took 16 years to build and was finished in 1811. The last commercial boat passed through the tunnel in 1921 and it was closed to all traffic in 1944. After falling into a state of disrepair, the tunnel underwent a major restoration project in 1990, and in 2001 was reopened to the public.