

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **ENJOY A SPECIAL FESTIVE FUN DAY AT FINSLEY GATE WHARF, BURNLEY**

The Canal & River Trust charity is inviting everyone to join Santa and his elves in festive fun at a special Christmas craft and activity day on Tuesday 21 December at the newly-restored Finsley Gate Wharf, on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, in Burnley.

Listen to Christmas stories, send your Santa wish list to the North Pole via the Blacksmith's forge fire, enjoy a heritage boat trip, make Christmas gifts and decorations with the Willow Lady and see the Blacksmith at work.

Christmas lunches will be available on site in the Sawmill Café or the Robert Whitworth Restaurant or guests can shop for last minute presents among the dozens of enticing home-made crafts on sale.

Visitors will also be able to check out the amazing transformation of the former derelict canal wharf which has recently been restored by the waterways and wellbeing charity into a new community heritage and learning hub, café bar, restaurant, function room, guest house and garden following a £2.9 million restoration.

Sarah De Nurtcheylo, Finsley Gate community engagement officer with the Trust, said: "We have welcomed hundreds of new visitors to this wonderful 200-year-old waterside heritage site since it opened in July. Adults and children alike have tried new fun activities like yoga, paddle boarding and canoeing as well as craft classes, boat trips and heritage tours.

"The lovely old stone buildings and the beautiful grounds look particularly magical with all the Christmas lights and decorations. We would love for more people to discover this wonderful place by trying out some of the festive activities at our special event. We promise our celebration will be full of Christmas cheer and get everyone in the mood for the Big Day."

For more information and to book tickets for the Finsley Gate Christmas event and activities, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-christmas-day-finsley-gate-wharf-burnley-tickets-220757811557>. Most activities are free. Parents and guardians are required to accompany their children and everyone is asked to comply with the current Covid-19 government guidance, including the wearing of face masks.

Canal & River Trust

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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: National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port.

For more information about visiting the Leeds & Liverpool Canal or donating or volunteering with the Canal & River Trust, please check out the website: [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk).

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and river navigations 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.

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