



Canal &  
River Trust

# Programme



**Celebration of the 40th**

**Easter Boat Gathering**

National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port

Friday 14th – Monday 17th April 2017

## Daily Activities (Friday—Monday)

8.00am— 6.00pm	Café	Café open (breakfast available 08.00am – 11.00am). Drinks and snacks also available on the First Floor, Island Warehouse
12:00noon - 11.00pm	Rolt Centre	Bar
11.00am - 3.00pm	Archive	Archive open with displays of historic records and audio visual material and researching your waterway family history
11.00am - 3.00pm	Education Centre	Activities with Canal & River Trust Explorers (Saturday and Sunday)
11.00am— 4.00pm	Porters Row and Historic Slipway	Costumed characters in Porters Row and on the historic slipway
12.00noon, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm	Boat trips	Boat trips along the Shropshire Union Canal. Book at reception £3 adults, £2 children. Accessible boat trips available on <i>Over The Rainbow</i>
10.30am, 1.00pm	Short Cruises on The Danny	A unique and rare opportunity to take a short ship canal cruise in the style and steam of yesteryear. To book: <a href="http://www.thedanny.co.uk">www.thedanny.co.uk</a> . £30.00 per person (Friday to Sunday)

## Good Friday 14th April

## Venue

10:00am— 17:00pm	Historic boats arriving throughout the day	Shropshire Union Canal
1.00pm— 7.00pm	Open Music Sessions for Boaters	Rolt Bar
7.00pm – 11.00pm	Doors open for Boat Museum Society meeting and talk by Tony Lewery	Rolt Theatre

Details correct at time of going to print.

**Timings and events may be subject to change—please see onsite signage and listen for announcements on site**

## Easter Saturday 15 April

## Venue

11:00am – 1.00pm	<i>Saturn</i> AGM	Conference Centre
11.00pm— 4.00pm	Activity on and around 'George' - a rare-surviving horse-drawn 'short boat'	Shropshire Union
12noon— 1.30pm	Music & Song Session with Full House and Hungry Horse	Rolt Bar
1.30pm	The "launch" of the reconstructed 'George' – a rare-surviving horse-drawn 'short boat'. Activities throughout the day.	Shropshire Union
12noon— 1:30pm	David Gibb: Write Your Own Song Workshop & Family Concert	Island Warehouse Activity Room
11.30am— 12.30pm	The Waterways Archive for Family History	The Waterways Archive
12.30pm— 1.30pm	Film Archive Show: Ellesmere Port and Beyond	The Waterways Archive
2.00pm— 3.00pm	Mike Clarke: Heritage talk on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal	The Waterways Archive
2.30pm— 4.00pm	The Hungry Horse Folk Club	Rolt Theatre
2.30pm— 4.30pm	Heather Wastie & Kate Saffin: 'Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways'	Island Warehouse Activity Room
2.30pm, - 3.30pm	Young Curators tour behind the scenes of the Lime Shed. Please book at reception	Lime Shed
3.30pm— 4.15pm	Tour of the historic boat collection. Please book at reception	Shropshire Union Upper Basin
7.30pm— 11.00pm	Mick Ryan and Paul Downes in Concert with support from Full House. Tickets available from reception £8.00	Rolt Theatre

## Easter Sunday 17th April Venue

11.00am	Young Curators behind the scenes tour of the Small Object Store. Please book at reception.	Small Object Store
11.30am— 12.30pm	Film Archive Show: 'Ellesmere Port and Beyond'	The Waterways Archive
12.00noon— 1.30pm	Music & Song Session: Dave Russell & Friends	Rolt Bar
12noon— 1.30pm	David Gibb: Write Your Own Song Workshop & Family Concert	Island Warehouse Activity Room
12.30pm— 1.30pm	Linda Barley and/or John Benson: The Waterways Archive for Family History	The Waterways Archive
2.00pm— 3.00pm	Phil Underwood in Concert	Rolt Theatre
2.00pm— 3.00pm	Chris M. Jones - The Decorative Tradition of Canal Boats: A Question & Answer Session	The Waterways Archive
2.30pm & 3.30pm	Jackie Robertson: Family Fun with Music	Island Warehouse Activity Room
7.00pm— 11.00pm	'Come-all-ye' Evening of Entertainment	Rolt Theatre

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## About the Performers...

**David Gibb:** David Gibb is an award-winning songwriter and story teller on a mission to create great music for children and families. David's music has been played on BBC Radios 1,2,3,4 and 6 and he has performed at the Glastonbury Festival. He has played over 400 concerts and been nominated for a BBC Radio 2 Folk Award. David's album *Letters Through Your Door* includes guest appearances from some of the biggest names in British folk, including Nancy Kerr.

## About the Performers...

**Heather Wastie & Kate Saffin: Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways:** Heather Wastie is a poet, singer, songwriter, keyboard/accordion player, actor, humourist and facilitator. In Summer 2016 she began touring a double bill of theatre and poetry, Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways with writer and actor Kate Saffin. Kate is a writer and performer based on the Oxford Canal. She has written and performed several one woman plays in Tooley's Boatyard based on the lives of working canal boat folk. *A Boat's Yer Whole World* was based on Sheila Stewart's book *Ramlin Rose*. Kate's also written an adaptation of 'Richard III' that was critically acclaimed at the Edinburgh Fringe.

**Full House:** Original members Nick Mitchell, Dave Russell and Chris Lee celebrated 25 years of Full House in 2011. Now a sensitive and original acoustic 6 piece line up with a varied repertoire of traditional and contemporary material. Full House continue to play festivals and folk clubs and are the resident band at the Raven Folk Club in Chester.

**Mick Ryan:** Mick Ryan is well known on the folk scene as a fine singer of traditional and original songs. He was described by *Folk Roots* as 'definitely the most underrated singer in the country'. Having written both comic and serious material for the band Crows in the 1980s, he has since written for radio and has composed a series of highly successful folk musicals.

**Paul Downes:** has a sensitive yet fun approach to live performance which puts him among the most respected artists on the British acoustic scene today. Paul has worked with a stellar array of musicians, including two appearances at the Royal Albert Hall with Show of Hands.

**Phil Underwood:** Phil Underwood is a singer songwriter who performs folk, cajun, blues and Appalachian. Phil's first stage play 'Roses & Castles' is an historical drama set on the English canals. Among Phil's many performances was an appearance with Bill Bailey at Wembley Arena.

**The Hungry Horse Folk Club:** The Hungry Horse Folk Club meets every Thursday at the nearby Whitby Club and regularly features the best in roots and acoustic music, ably supported by a host of local singers and musicians. They are also the organisers of the Wirral Folk Festival, held in June each year.

**Jackie Robertson—Family Fun with Music:** Parents and children from 5 - 95 welcome, to make simple musical instruments, decorate and play them. Sing, dance and enjoy listening. Come and have fun and make a noise!



# About the activities...

## Visiting boats

Look out for visiting boats from around the country arriving at the museum to take part in the annual Easter Boat Gathering. This year the event is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please see list at reception for details of both visiting boats and boats in the historic boat collection.



## Historic boats

Some of the historic boats you will discover include *Gifford* who is owned, operated and cared for by the Boat Museum Society and *Saturn*—the last horse-drawn Shropshire Union Canal Fly-boat in the World.



## Window on the World

Discover how Ellesmere Port was a 'window on the world' and visit the Port's recently opened historic slipway, which was used for boat building and restoration between the 1840s and 1920s. As part of the same project we have preserved *Mossdale* and reconstructed *George*.— two nationally important historic boats. Join us next to *George* on Easter Saturday at 1.30pm when we launch her restoration as she prepares to return to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.



## Behind the Scenes Tours

A team of volunteers joined by our Young Curators will be conducting behind the scenes tours of the Lime Shed and also the Small Object Store. These tours will take place at 2.30pm on Easter Saturday and 11.00am on Easter Sunday. Spaces are limited and can be booked at reception.



## A Major Boat Conservation

Tour of the upper basin where a major conservation project is taking place. Find out more about the vessels and how we are future proofing our historic collection. The project is thanks to an Arts Council England (ACE) grant of £300k. Spaces are limited and can be booked at reception.



## The Waterways Archive

Visit The Waterways Archive from 11am – 3pm throughout the extended Easter weekend for displays of historic records, some archive film recordings, talks and a place to rest. Please see below for details of films and talks.

## Mike Clarke's talk on Heritage on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal

Mike Clarke, author of *The Leeds & Liverpool Canal: A History*, has been involved with researching the canal's history for almost fifty years. During the canal's 200th year, Mike even had a lock named after him!

## Chris M Jones—The Decorative Tradition of Canal Boats: A Q&A session

Chris M Jones works as an artist, illustrator, researcher and writer with a particular emphasis on the waterways of England. His articles and illustrations are well known to readers of *Narrowboat* magazine.

## Porters Row

History is brought to life in the cottages built to house the dock workers. These are some of the oldest houses in Ellesmere Port. Look out for our costumed characters around the site.

## Temporary Exhibition Programme

Our programme of temporary exhibitions begins with 'Inspired by the Traditional' created and installed by local A Level Art Students from Grange School, Hartford, Cheshire. Use your annual passes to return throughout the year.



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## **Forthcoming Events** **at the National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port**

Water, Locks & Linocuts Art Exhibition by Eric Gaskill	12 May to 9 July
Stilling the Flow Art Exhibition by Jim Cooke	2 June to 2 July
Bicycles and Boats	9 July
Changing Places, Film & Video Umbrella Exhibition of moving image work	11 August to 17 September
Horses at Work and at War	13 August
Santa Cruises	Weekends in December

For more information on our events, opening times and  
ticket prices, please visit our website at:  
**[canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm)**



@NWMuseum



NationalWaterwaysMuseum

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**Please take care around the site and keep an eye on young children—  
there is deep water, uneven surfaces and floating weed which can  
make the water look like grass.**

### **National Waterways Museum**

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