
HORSES AT WORK

Sunday 13 August 2017



Canal &
River Trust

Programme

Welcome to our day celebrating the importance of horses in the history of the waterways. For over 200 years canal boats were pulled by horses and for much longer the country depended on them for work and warfare.

Don't miss...

Horse Power: Boat-horse Bonny (who turned 25 years old this year!) demonstrates a 'horse's life' on the canals, pulling Gifford, one of the last surviving canal working horse-boats. Built 90 years ago, Gifford is now an important exhibit at the Museum. You can follow Bonny as she pulls Gifford on her 45-min journey guided by her owner Sue Day. Sue is founder of the Horse Boating Society which aims to preserve the skills of traditional horse boating.



Horse Harnessing: See Bonny being prepared by Sue for a hard day's work and discover what she must wear.

Khaki girls – With Kate Vigurs, History's Maid. Hear the story of the gallant girls of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry as they trained to nurse on the battlefields and the work they undertook in Belgium at the outbreak of the Great War.



Ride in a wagonette: Duke and Charlie (two beautiful horses) invite you to join them for a scenic ride around the historic docks – over two swing bridges, past the old lighthouse, down Dock Street and back over the canal. You will have a guide on board to point out features of interest. Tickets available from the reception area £2.50 per person.



Meet the Ponies: Pet, groom and feed the rescued ponies from Ty Mavis Pony Sanctuary. Experience the life of a dock worker, loading and unloading cargo from boat to horse and cart.

Shoeing a Horse: Experience the sights and smells of a horse being shod with farrier, Nick Freak.

Boat Trips: Enjoy a leisurely 30-min cruise along the Shropshire Union Canal, with commentary, in our trip-boat Centaur. Book your tickets from reception £3 adult, £2 Children.

Also look out for...

Costumed Interpreters: As you walk around the 7.5-acre historic dock, you will meet some of the characters who lived and worked here in the past. Don't forget to head over to Porters Row cottages and meet the residents!

Pack Horses: Castle and Bilbo show off their fittings in pack horse mode, assisted by their rider Nigel Dix, who will also be giving a pack horse demonstration.

The Craft of Horse Boating: Watch two films showing traditional horse boating techniques in the Island Warehouse.

Waterways Craft Group: Watch experts crochet, paint canal ware, make spider-web belts, patchwork, boat costumes (and much more!) in the Island Warehouse.

The Waterways Archive: Drop in for a unique opportunity to handle horsey objects from the museum's collections. Staff and Volunteers will be on hand to help and answer questions

Build a Canal Sandpit: Find this hands on activity for younger children in our sand pit next to the Education Centre.

Hook a Duck: Great fun for children and adults alike! Find this activity over at Porters Row.

Museum Exhibitions:

A Crochet Challenge: 28 members of the Coffee and Crochet Group have crocheted and joined together around 500 traditional squares to create a striking horse sculpture. Please visit the Island Warehouse to enter the competition to name the horse.

Changing Places, Film & Video Umbrella: A touring programme of moving-image work by artists from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, presented in collaboration with FVU: Film and Video Umbrella. You can find these exhibits on board Bigmere and in the Island Warehouse.



Timings

All day - from 11.00 - 16.00

- *Wagonette Rides. A 20-min ride, tickets from reception.*
 - *Meet the Ponies in our picnic area.*
 - *The craft of horse boating films, Island Warehouse.*
 - *More than rag rugs & needlework, Island Warehouse.*
 - *Family Activities, Education Centre & Porters Row.*
 - *National Waterways Archive.*
 - *Exhibitions.*
 - *Costumed Interpreters.*
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Special events

10.40 - 11.00 *Khaki Girls (Picnic Area)*

11.00 - 11.30 *Horse Harnessing (Stables)*

11.30 - 12.30 *Horse Power! (30-45 min walk along Shropshire Union Canal)*

12.00 - 12.30 *Boat Trip on Centaur (Departs from reception)*

12.40 - 13.00 *Khaki Girls (Picnic Area)*

13.00 - 13.30 *Boat Trip on Centaur (Departs from Reception)*

13.00 - 14.00 *Shoeing a horse (Outside the Blacksmiths Forge)*

13.40 - 14.00 *Khaki Girls (Picnic Area)*

14.00 - 14.30 *Boat Trip on Centaur (Departs from Reception)*

14.05 - 14.35 *Horse Harnessing (Stables)*

14.35 - 15.35 *Horse Power! (30-45 min walk along Shropshire Union Canal)*

15.00 - *Pack Horse Demonstration (Stables)*

15.40 - 16.00 *Khaki Girls (Picnic area)*

Timings and events may be subject to change—please listen for announcements on site



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