

# W NATIONAL M WATERWAYS MUSEUM ELLESMERE PORT

## VISITOR INFORMATION & EVENTS GUIDE



Canal &  
River Trust

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[canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm)

## The National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port showcases the history of the canal and the lives and times of the people who worked on them.

Set on the banks of the mighty **Manchester Ship Canal** and the **River Mersey**, the museum is set in a glorious collection of canal buildings with spectacular double locks taking boats through the heart of the museum on the **Shropshire Union Canal**.

A historic collection of canal boats can be seen at the museum, with several open for visitors to board and explore. The atmospheric Porters Row cottages show how life would have been for the families who worked around the docks. If you are lucky, you may run into costumed characters who will be happy to tell you all about their life.

Through hands-on exhibits and family friendly interactives the museum presents rich industrial heritage. Visit the newly refurbished historic slipway, which has a unique position overlooking the waterways. Download the **Window on the World** app before you visit and see the characters come to life.

The indoor play area offers babies and toddlers a unique water themed experience during their visit.



For more details contact us on **0151 355 5017** or visit [canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm)



@NWMuseum



/NationalWaterwaysMuseum

## BOAT TRIPS



**No trip would be complete without climbing aboard our narrowboat to explore just some of the Shropshire Union Canal.**

Where once horses pulled buttys and barges on the Shropshire Union Canal, you can now explore aboard our 30 minute boat trip.

## TAKE THE SLOW LANE

Your guide will tell stories that bring to life the changing fortunes of the canal and its people. As time slows to the traditional 4mph, you'll travel through a fascinating industrial landscape criss-crossed with past and present transport systems.

### Prices

Adults and concessions: £3.00

Children: £2.00

### Times and availability

These vary each day but during the summer, trips run on most days at 1.00pm and 2.00pm.

Please call **0151 355 5017** on the morning of your visit to check availability and times that day.

## LOOK OUT FOR...

The grooves on the old Victorian Bridge worn down by the ropes of horses as they pulled narrow boats to and from Ellesmere Port docks.

## WHERE HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

With special thanks to our team of volunteers, the museum is brought back to life giving you a flavour of what life was like for those who lived and worked in and around the docks.

### STEAM DAYS

6, 7, 28 May, 3, 17 June, 15 July, 5, 12, 26, 27 August, 9 September, 7 October, 4 November

Visit the original Pump House, the hub of the site and find out how the steam engine supplied water for the hydraulic system which powered the winches, the Porters Row Cottages and the cranes for loading and unloading sea going ships, barges and the working narrow boats.



### COSTUMED INTERPRETERS

6, 27 May, 17 June, 15 July, 12, 26 August, 9 September, 21 October, 18 November

Visit Porters Row Cottages and meet the characters who would have lived and worked in and around the docks.



### CRAFT GROUP DEMONSTRATIONS AND CROCHET GROUP

See the Craft Group display their historic boating craft skills in the Island Warehouse every third Sunday in the month.

Interested in getting involved? The Coffee and Crochet Group meet every Tuesday between 10.15am and 12.15pm.

All activities are subject to change. Please check website or facebook.



If you would like to get involved ask about our volunteering opportunities at reception or the Volunteer Hub

## THE WATERWAYS ARCHIVE AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Waterways Archive is the national archive for the canal network and is housed at the museum.

Open to visitors and researchers Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. Booking is advisable for in depth research.

At the core of the collection are the archives of British Waterways and the early canal companies, which trace the history of Britain's inland waterways back to its very roots in the 17th century. A wide range of books and periodicals about canals and waterways history are also available for research use.

You can also access the archive from home. Over 45,000 images and 37,000 historic records are available at [collections.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://collections.canalrivertrust.org.uk) which tell the fascinating story of our canals and rivers.

Key events this year include:

### Online Family History Today with Carole Must Part 1

Wednesday 6th June 2pm

Session exploring and demonstrating the latest in family history sources online. Come along to be better equipped with the information you need to further your research.

### Online Family History Today with Carole Must Part 2

Wednesday 4th July 2pm

### The Grosvenor Family and Ellesmere Port

Wednesday 1st August 2pm

Archivist for the Eaton Estate Louise Benson will explore the historic relationship between the Grosvenor family and Ellesmere Port.

### The Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigation Company

Wednesday 5th September 2pm

Jonathan Pepler, formerly County Archivist for Cheshire, will relate the story of this canal company as told through its historic records held in The Waterways Archive.

**To book** you can either telephone **0151 350 1226** or email [archives@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:archives@canalrivertrust.org.uk) or visit the website for more details [canalrivertrust.org.uk/archive](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/archive).

**Events are free with your annual pass.**

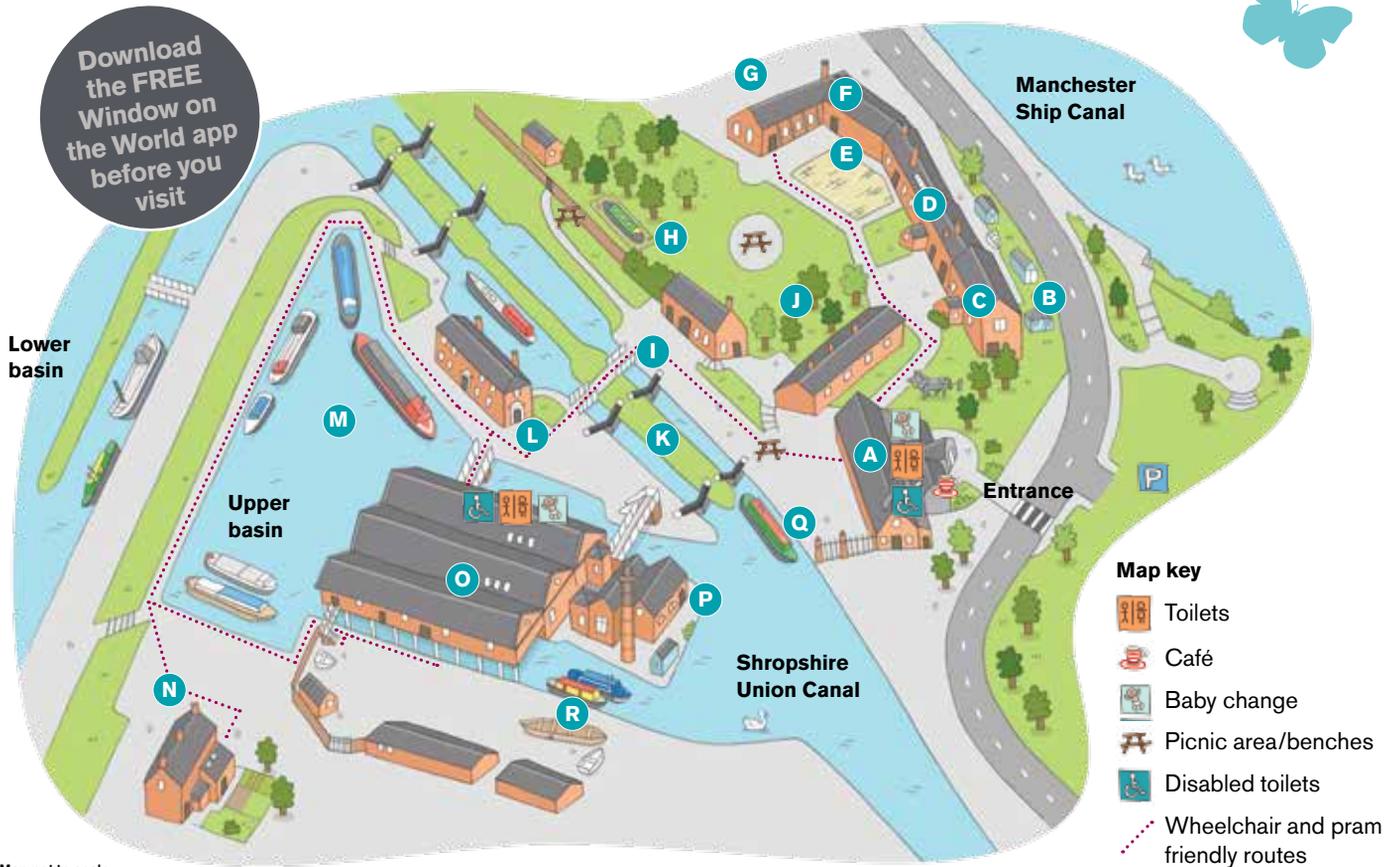
# TAKE A LEISURELY WALK AROUND

The old dock buildings, that now house the museum, were built during the 1800's after the canal was built by Telford and Jessop in 1795.

## Wildlife

Canals are havens for wildlife. Look and listen out for the many birds that live here or travel through – Pied wagtails, Swans, Coots, Ducks, Cormorants, Moor hens – you may even catch sight of a Kingfisher or even hear a Skylark!

Download the FREE Window on the World app before you visit



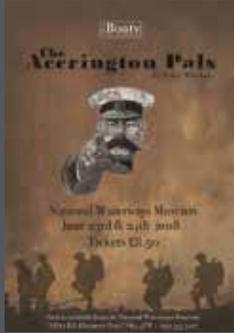
Map not to scale

Walking the 7 acre site takes you through a dynamic landscape of Victorian buildings, docks, locks, stables, cottages and canal basins many of which are Grade II listed. We also have the Tom Rolt Conference Centre if you are interested in hiring a unique venue for a business meeting or special occasion please contact us for details.

There is plenty of space indoors and outside, so we are a great day out irrespective of the weather.

- |                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Reception and Shop | <b>J</b> Stables                     |
| <b>B</b> Viewing Platform   | <b>K</b> Locks                       |
| <b>C</b> Waterways Archive  | <b>L</b> Toll House (Museum offices) |
| <b>D</b> Conference Centre  | <b>M</b> Historic boats              |
| <b>E</b> Blacksmith's Forge | <b>N</b> Porters Row Cottages        |
| <b>F</b> Education Centre   | <b>O</b> Exhibition Hall             |
| <b>G</b> Power Hall         | <b>P</b> Pump House & Tower          |
| <b>H</b> Play & Picnic Area | <b>Q</b> Centaur Boat Trips          |
| <b>I</b> Pattern Shop       | <b>R</b> Mersey Flat Barge Mossdale  |

# The Boaty Theatre Company



## The Accrington Pals

23 & 24 June

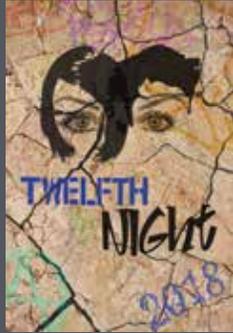
Peter Whelan

A moving and hard-hitting play set in Accrington in early WWI that was first presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1981.

Following the story of the men that volunteered their services to their country after Kitchener's calls for a New Army and how their experiences differed from the women left behind trying to keep the country afloat with the absence of the men.

"These mothers, wives, daughters and lovers of the Pals didn't knuckle under sheepishly to authority in the way I had supposed."

Peter Whelan (1982)



## Twelfth Night

17 & 18 August

William Shakespeare

One of Shakespeare's most-loved comedies, Twelfth Night is a tale of unrequited love – hilarious and heart-breaking. When a devastating storm separates and shipwrecks twins Olivia and Sebastian on the island of Illyria, they must do their best to carve out a new life in a strange land, each believing the other twin has perished.

Assuming the guise of 'Caesario' Viola enters into a love triangle with Duke Orsino and Olivia.

Confusing? Well, when Sebastian enters the scene things can only get more complicated.



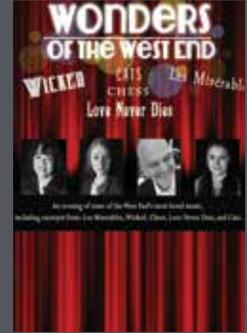
## Hamlet

28, 29, 30 September

William Shakespeare

One of Shakespeare's most popular works, Hamlet is an absolute powerhouse of a play for performers, directors and audience alike. But ours is not a simple retelling of a tale you may believe you already know so well.

Join us for an adaptation that will challenge all preconceptions of this masterful exploration of the human condition.



## Wonders of the West End

11 November

Concert Performance

Featuring the immaculate vocal talents of professional local singer, Jane Hamlet, as well as English National Opera's Nick Hardy and Phil Gault (of Scottish Opera and Opra Cymru fame), the performance will take place on 11th November for one night only at the National Waterways Museum to commemorate Remembrance Day.

The concert will feature numbers from much-loved musicals such as; Wicked, Cats, Les Miserables, Carousel, We Will Rock You and The Phantom of The Opera as well as classical favourites such as 'Nessun Dorma' and 'Time to Say Goodbye'.

## The Tales We Tell

30 & 31 October

Written by Charlotte Barton and Tobey Gladman

A tantalising web of mysterious tales linked by the actions of an unearthly being that will make you reconsider whether or not you truly feel comfortable sleeping with the light off!

\*\*\*\*  
 "...a dramatic and effective performance and a brilliant take on a very famous scene... one of my favourite re-enactments I've ever seen performed." Sarah Goldsmith, North West End

\*\*\*\*\* "... a thrilling atmosphere..."  
 Georgina Wilson-Williams, Canal & River Trust

\*\*\*\* "Brave and bold!" British Theatre Guide

\*\*\* "Delightful." Liverpool Echo

\*\*\*\* "Vigorous and enthusiastic!" British Theatre Guide

\*\*\*\* "Thoughtful, moving and admirable."  
 North West End



## RUSSELL NEWBERY ENGINE RALLY

13 to 17 June

Father's Day weekend this year sees the 21st Rally of the Russell Newbery Register Ltd at the museum.

The rally provides an opportunity for you to see a range of visiting boats, and particularly their Russell Newbery engines. On Saturday at 3.00pm there will be a mass engine start up – not for the faint-hearted!

Fantastic  
for Father's  
Day

### FATHERS DAY OUT

Sunday 17 June, 11.45am to 2.00pm

Travel back in time on an action packed, Father's Day Out with a canal cruise, a fun filled tour and afternoon lunch.

£5 for Annual Pass Holders or £15 per adult, £11 per child (£50 family) and this fee includes an annual pass.

## HORSES AT WORK

Sunday 12 August



Horses played an important role in the history of the waterways and for over 200 years canal boats were pulled by horses, and for much longer the country depended on them for work and warfare.

See one of our boats being towed along the canal, take a horse drawn carriage ride, and enjoy taking part in lots of other horse related activities including pony rides.

An excellent day out for families with activities for the children.

## BIKE & BOATS FESTIVAL

Sunday 15 July

Our Bike and Boats Festival is a celebration of local 19th century traditions with a decorated Bike Ride starting in Whitby Park at 10.00am.

The afternoon concludes with FREE ENTRY into the museum where you'll be able to take part in a packed programme of bike and boat themed activities.

Bling your bike and join the ride; a great get together for the community with plenty of fun and good exercise!

Visit [sustransevents.eventbrite.co.uk](http://sustransevents.eventbrite.co.uk) to register

The Sustrans Community Places Project is working in partnership with us to bring this annual community event to our town.

## HISTORIC TRANSPORT RALLY

Sunday 26 August

A Gathering of Buses, Bikes, Boats and about 100 Classic Cars.

# EXHIBITIONS

## ONLY THE TIDE OF TIME

### An Exhibition of Photographs by Clifford Morris

12 January to 15 July

Only the Tide of Time revisits Clifford Morris' photography from the turn of the millennium to reflect on the many changes to the landscape that have taken place during the intervening years. These photographs are a testimony to a world that in some cases has now gone forever.

*'The canals, being man made, have no tide. The only tide to have intruded is that of time itself. The years of 'canal mania', saw industries rushing to use what was, at that time, the most efficient means of transporting goods available. Canals' critical role in the industrial revolution that swept across Britain offered no future proofing against the competition from first rail and then road that was to bring an end to their industrial use. These photographs reflect the paradoxes of social and economic change and in so doing interpret our industrial past in the light of our times today.'* Clifford Morris

## NO SIGN OF CANALS ON MARS

### The illustrated Travel Diaries of Eileen Burke

16 March to 10 June

From 1960 to 1979, Eileen Burke created twenty-three illustrated travel diaries with her friend Flo Boyde whilst touring in their car and cruising the rivers Lee and Stort with their boat, the 'Lillian Maud'. The diaries are a unique example of leisure as documented by a keen amateur photographer and artist.

Inspired by these diaries Tim Daly, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Chester, has produced a book No Sign of Canals on Mars which includes reproductions of Eileen Burke's watercolours, drawings and excerpts from her diary pages. The exhibition celebrates the 'thingness' of the diaries, especially their handmade contents and Eileen's formidable making skills.

## CANAL ART...NOT WHAT YOU MIGHT EXPECT!

### An exhibition by The Guild of Waterway Artists

20 July to 4 November

The Guild of Waterway Artists was founded during the 1980s by a group of artists who were also keen and knowledgeable waterway enthusiasts. Notable among the founders were Garth Allan, Brian Collings, Alan Firth and Harley Crossley.

Today the Guild continues to maintain its original objective in the pursuit of excellence, with all new members having to be elected into it.

This exhibition highlights the many media and styles depicting all aspects of the waterways represented by this small select group.

[waterwayartistsguild.co.uk](http://waterwayartistsguild.co.uk)

## FROM GRAVE TO CRADLE

### Bringing up the Boats

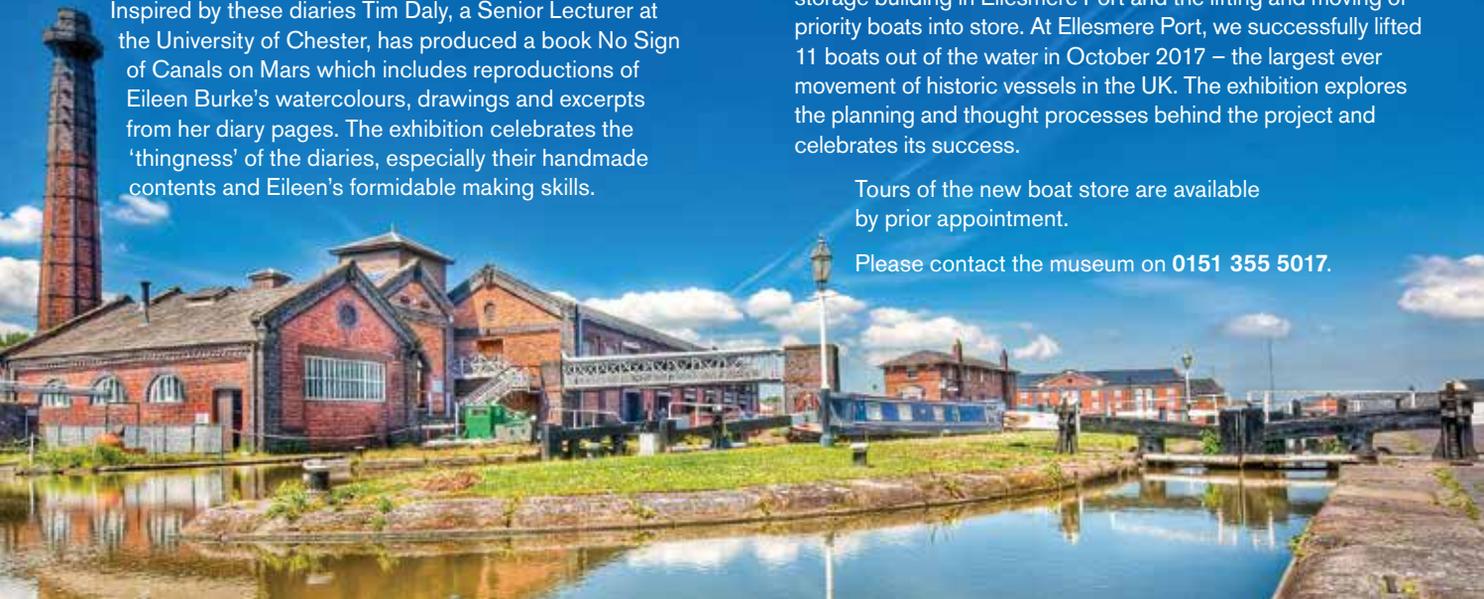
Friday 22nd June 2018 – Sunday 23rd September 2018

Caring for the historic boat collection at the National Waterways Museum has always been a challenge. The Canal & River Trust's collection includes nearly 70 boats, representing the most comprehensive and important collection of inland waterways craft in the U.K.

In July 2016, we were successful in receiving £314,000 from Arts Council England to secure the future preservation of the historic boat collection. This funding enabled us to lease a storage building in Ellesmere Port and the lifting and moving of priority boats into store. At Ellesmere Port, we successfully lifted 11 boats out of the water in October 2017 – the largest ever movement of historic vessels in the UK. The exhibition explores the planning and thought processes behind the project and celebrates its success.

Tours of the new boat store are available by prior appointment.

Please contact the museum on **0151 355 5017**.





## SUMMER FAMILY ACTIVITIES

**We are holding a host of all sorts of activities this summer and they're all free with your annual pass.**

### CRAFT MAKERS

*28 May, 1 June, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August*

Get creative at our craft station this summer with our selection of waterway themed colouring activities. Details of each activity can be found on the website and Facebook.

### STORY MAKERS

*30 July, 6, 13, 20 August*

This summer the museum invites children who love to get creative, to our four-week Story Makers club. Together we will write stories inspired by the rich history of Ellesmere Port docks and the interesting objects on display in the museum. On the final Story Makers session everyone will read out their story and graduate from Story Makers Club with a certificate.

1.30pm – 2.30pm: Age 5–7, 3.00pm to 4.00pm: Age 8–11

### LET'S FISH ON A FRIDAY

*27 July, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 August*

Want to learn to fish? We'll get you up and netting in no time! If you've never fished before or fancy getting back into it, book your place and 'Let's Fish'. Spaces are limited.

## HALLOWEEN MONSTER MASH

*Saturday 27 to Sunday 28 October*

**Boaty Theatre Company presents  
Trick or Treat Promenade Performance**

Explore the museum and earn yourself a treat on the way!

Visit the darkest corners of the exhibition rooms, encounter the mischievous character, solve the riddles, put a stop to "evil" plans and gain your reward, becoming a hero and saving the day in the process!

Featuring some of your favourite movie "monsters", ghouls and ghosts. Suitable for all age groups. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Please call to book.**

## CHRISTMAS

**Throughout December**

Father Christmas will be leaving his sleigh to set sail on canal boat Centaur to reach his grotto. He would like you to join him on board and the boat will set off for a 30 minute trip along the canal. On arrival back at the Museum, Father Christmas will lead the way to his beautiful Grotto, where there will be storytelling and a gift for the children to bring an enchanting start to your Christmas. To complete the experience, adults can relax and be served tea or coffee and a mince pie, with juice and biscuits for the children.

Please allow up to two hours for this experience.

**Booking essential**

Please keep checking [canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm) for new events.

## GETTING THERE

From the M53 Junction 9 follow brown signs for 'Boat Museum'. The National Waterways Museum is an accessible visitor attraction. Dogs welcome.

**Train station:** The Museum is a 10 minute walk away from Ellesmere Port Station.

**South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FW**

**T: 0151 355 5017**

**E: [nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk)**

**[canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm)**



## OPENING TIMES

**Summer 2018**

**26 March - 4 November**

Open daily

10.00 – 17.00

**Winter 2018-2019**

**6 November - 31 March**

**Open Tuesday to Sunday**

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and  
New Years Day

10.00 – 16.00

**\*Subject to change. Please see website for more information.**

## ADMISSION PRICE

The admission prices allows you to return as many times as you like during a 12 month period.

### Ticket Type

Adult Annual Pass

£9.75

Child Annual Pass

£6.00

Concession Annual Pass

£8.50

Family Pass (2 ad + 2 ch)

£25.00

Special discounts available for groups of 10 or more.  
**Booking essential.**

All information correct at the time of printing – please visit the website for the latest information on admission charges, opening times and special events.