



PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 1 March 2016

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO RESTORE LANCASHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE'S HISTORIC CANAL MILEPOSTS Leeds & Liverpool Canal Bicentenary (1816-2016)



Caption: Unveiling of Lancashire's first restored mile post by Pendle Mayor Councillor Nawaz Ahmed and Canal & River Trust North West Waterway Partnership chairman Bob Pointing at Reedley Marina, near Burnley.

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal Bicentenary this year is being marked by the Canal & River Trust with a major fundraising appeal to restore or replace missing mileposts along the waterway's 127 mile route.

The charity hopes the **EveryMileCounts** appeal will encourage dozens of local groups and individuals to adopt their local stretch of canal and its mile marker. The Trust is looking for sponsors to donate up to £200 to restore each milepost and volunteer work parties to help restore damaged or corroded mile posts.

The project is backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, whose grant of £36,600 has supported the appointment of a new project officer, the fabrication of 40 new mile posts and a programme of activities, heritage events and art workshops for local residents.

A recent survey of the trans-Pennine canal has revealed that about a third of the original 127 mile posts are missing or severely damaged, 89 need re-painting and around 75 need new number plates fixing to them.

Although the canal is 200 years old, the original cast iron mile markers date back to the 1890s. They were installed as a response to legislation introduced to regulate canal freight tolls - the

Canal & River Trust, Waterside House, Waterside Drive, Wigan, WN3 5AZ.

T: 0203 3204 4514 E: press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Twitter: [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)

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: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

Railway and Canal Rates, Tolls and Charges Order of 1893. This prompted the whole of the canal to be re-surveyed and new mileposts, along with half and quarter mileposts, installed along the towpaths.

Chantelle Seaborn, local waterway manager with the Canal & River Trust, said: “The restoration of this first mile marker on the Lancashire side of the canal marks the start of a tremendous heritage project which will leave a lasting legacy long after the end of the bicentenary celebrations.

“We are very excited to work with local communities who want to be involved with refurbishing or replacing mile markers, and the half and quarter mile markers which need re-painting. That’s over 500 posts which need restoration. We would also love to hear from sponsors who would like to preserve their local canal heritage by giving donations of up to £200.

“Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, this project will be so much more than just replacing the 120-year-old mile makers. We hope their restoration will also galvanise many more people to get involved with the wonderful historic, living waterway on their doorstep.”

Any organisation or volunteer interested in getting involved in the bicentenary **EveryMileCounts** project, should contact Canal & River Trust project officer Alice Kay, email: alice.kay@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

More information about bicentenary events, festivals, special projects and talks can be found on the Canal & River Trust website: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

ENDS

For further media requests please contact:

Lynn Pegler 07783 686246 Email Lynn.pegler@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation’s third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms

Bicentenary Celebrations: Key Events

Date	Event
April 16&17	Saltaire World Heritage Weekend
April 30 – May 2	Skipton Canal Festival
June 3-5	Liverpool Mersey River Festival
June 4&5	Blackburn Colour Run
June 11 & 12	Inland Waterway Association boating festival – Eldonian Village, Liverpool.
June 18&19	Burscough heritage weekend, West Lancashire
June 24-26	Leeds Waterfront Festival
June 25 & 26	Blackburn Flora and Fauna weekend
July 23 & 24	Blackburn Canal Festival
August 27-29	Burnley Canal Festival
September 3	Canal Step Dance – World Record Attempt

September 9-18	Saltaire Heritage Festival
September 9-11	Leigh Canal Festival
September 10&11	Heritage Weekend in Blackburn and other canal venues
October 15-23	Kennet recreates inaugural voyage along the full length of the canal
October 16	World premiere of Super Slow Way Symphony, performed in Liverpool, Blackburn and Leeds.