



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **LANCASTER CANAL BICENTENARY CELEBRATED ON THE WALLS OF KENDAL'S WESTMORLAND SHOPPING CENTRE**

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An exhibition of 42 illustrations from '*The Lanky*', the world's first canal comic book, will be launched at Kendal's Westmorland Shopping Centre this Friday (11 October) as part of the Lakes International Comic Art Festival.

Promoted by the Canal & River Trust charity, which manages the Lancaster Canal and 2,000 miles of waterways, and the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership, the book's illustrations are featured on the walls of the shopping centre by comic book creator, artist Oliver East.

Both he and the Trust's local canal community project manager Carrie House will be on hand this Friday at 4pm in the Shopping Centre to talk about the ground-breaking comic book, funded by a £15,000 Arts Council National Lottery grant, and the amazing opportunities to get involved with the Lancaster Canal, which celebrates its bicentenary this year.

Carrie joined the Trust earlier this year on a two year community engagement project, funded as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £1.3million which is helping finance vital repairs to Grade II-listed Stainton Aqueduct, near Sedgwick.

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

As the Lancaster Canal celebrates its bicentenary this year, Carrie's role has been to shine a light on cultural and leisure opportunities offered by the waterway's fascinating historic structures and beautiful natural environment.

Over the summer she has organised a wide range of community activities from bat walks to volunteer training in dry stone wall repairs. Future plans include a series of history projects, including oral history, and new interpretation along the towpath between Stainton and Sedgwick.

Carrie said: "*The Lanky* is a great piece of artwork and really helps people to engage with the unique history and heritage of the Lancaster Canal. Oliver launched the comic book at the same Lakes International Festival a couple of years ago and we are delighted to bring the whole comic story to life on the walls of the shopping centre for this year's festival.

"We hope people will come and visit us on Friday or get in touch if they would like to get involved with volunteering on the canal. The artwork will be in place until the end of October, so there is plenty of opportunity to see the wonderful pictures."

The exhibition is free for anyone to visit during shopping centre opening hours. (Monday – Saturday 8:30am-6pm and Sunday 9:30am-4:30pm.).

If you are interested in volunteering on the Lancaster Canal, please email Carrie House at [carrie.house@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:carrie.house@canalrivertrust.org.uk).

For more information about visiting the canal, please check out the websites:

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) or

<https://lancastercanalregenerationpartnership.wordpress.com>.

More information about the Lake International Comic Art Festival:

<https://www.comicartfestival.com/>).

## **Notes to Editors**

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### **Canal & River Trust**

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

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

### **Heritage Lottery Fund**

Heritage Grants applications are assessed in two rounds. A first-round pass is given when HLF has endorsed outline proposals and earmarked funding. A first-round pass may also include an immediate award to fund the development of the project. Detailed proposals are then considered by HLF at second-round and as long as plans have progressed satisfactorily and according to the original proposal, an award for the project is confirmed.

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported

### **About the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership**

This is a dedicated partnership of local authorities and charities, committed to celebrating, promoting and delivering the regeneration of the Lancaster canal and its communities. The current focus is to develop an accessible towpath trail between Kendal and Tewitfield. Its members include: Canal & River Trust, Cumbria County Council, Inland Waterways Association, Kendal Town Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster Canal Trust, Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council.

<https://lancastercanalregenerationpartnership.wordpress.com/>