

PRESS RELEASE

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LLANGOLLEN CANAL WORLD HERITAGE SITE 10TH ANNIVERSARY - PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS AT PONTCYSYLLTE ON SATURDAY 29 JUNE

The Canal & River Trust charity in Wales, Glandŵr Cymru, is hosting a fantastic free celebration at Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Trevor, near Wrexham, on Saturday 29 June to mark the 10th anniversary of the Llangollen Canal's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Trevor Basin, situated next to Britain's highest, longest aqueduct, will be the venue for an afternoon (2-6pm) packed full of exciting, family-friendly activities and attractions – as well, of course, the opportunity to stroll along the stunning 'Stream in the Sky'.

Organised in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council and Our Picturesque Landscape project team, the event will feature coracle-building and trials, circus skills workshop, hands-on animals with Dr Zoolittle, Techniquest engineering activities, canoeing, mini gold course, a surfing simulator, and stalls and activities provided by local scouts and schools.

Lego fans can join the Big LEGO Build workshop to re-create a scale model of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct using 15,000 bricks, and live music will be provided by local band Jabberwocky.

The event celebrates the important date of 27 June 2009, when the 200-year-old aqueduct, built by famous canal engineers Thomas Telford and William Jessop, plus 11 miles of the Llangollen Canal, joined the elite club of 1,000 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which includes such iconic structures as Stonehenge and the Pyramids.

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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

Over the anniversary year, the Canal & River Trust, which looks after 2,000 miles of waterways, is working closely with Wrexham, Denbighshire and Shropshire councils and Cadw to organise a host of celebrations and events.

A photography competition for both children and adults, a specially-brewed beer, spectacular luminaire structure lighting, 'Under the Arches' celebration and a wide range of community and cultural events and workshops are taking place. The deadline for the children's poetry competition is 8 July. Free Let's Fish angling taster sessions are being offered at Trevor Basin on Saturday 22 and 29 June, and at Chirk on Saturday 6 and 13 July, 10-4.30pm. Free outdoor yoga lessons will take place on Tuesday 3, 10, 17 September, 2pm.

Lynda Slater, Trevor Basin visitor centre manager with the Canal & River Trust, said: "Over the last decade, the World Heritage Site designation has really helped to put the Llangollen Canal and our spectacular aqueduct on the international tourist map. This special 10th anniversary party will be a celebration event for local residents and visitors alike. It would be great to see old friends and also people who want to discover the beautiful canal for the first time.

"The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct has gone from being a national treasure to a tourist destination of international significance. During the main summer season we get coach loads of tourists from dozens of different countries, mixing with thousands of British holiday makers, walkers, boaters and cyclists. A café boat was installed in 2017 and last year we opened new car parks to provide extra capacity during the peak summer months which has helped.

"Visitor numbers have quadrupled over the decade, with nearly half a million people viewing the 'Stream in the Sky' and the Trevor Basin Visitor Centre last year, providing a boost for the local economy.

"Visitors come from all over the world, with Australians and Japanese heading the international league table. Signing the centre's visitor book last year were tourists from 52 countries from faraway places such as Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the Philippines, as well as most European nations."

The Llangollen Canal is one of the most popular canals in the country with boaters. With the opportunity to cruise over two stunning aqueducts at Pontcysyllte and Chirk, and meander through the beautiful Welsh countryside, it is a hot favourite with people wanting to spend their week's holiday on the waterways.

But sightseers don't have to own or hire a boat to enjoy the thrill of sailing in the sky. Two trip boat companies, Jones the Boats and Llangollen Boats provide regular short trips over the Pontcysyllte, and Anglo Welsh, operating from nearby Trevor Basin, offers day boat hire.

For more information about visiting the Pontcysyllte and Llangollen Canal World Heritage, special events or supporting these 200-year-old heritage structures by donating or volunteering with the Canal & River Trust, please go to www.canalrivertrust.org.uk. Find

out about special events on the Pontcysyllte and Trevor Basin Visitor Centre at its dedicated Facebook page or through Twitter or Instagram.

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Notes to editors

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Notes to Editors

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.

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About the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and 11 mile Llangollen World Heritage Site

(Pronounced - '*pont-cuss-ull-teh*' meaning '*the bridge that joins*')

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal became a World Heritage Site on 27 June, 2009. The Pontcysyllte is a grade one listed building, a scheduled ancient monument and forms the centrepiece of the 11 mile World Heritage Site.

- The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct was constructed by Thomas Telford and William Jessop between 1796 and 1805 during the Industrial Revolution to enable slate and limestone to be moved from quarries in North Wales to the Midlands and beyond.
- The aqueduct measures a record-breaking 1,000 ft (307m) long and at its highest point it is 126 ft (38.4m) above the River Dee.
- A cast iron trough, which holds 330,000 gallons (1.5 million litres) of water, is 11ft wide and 5ft 3ins deep. It is emptied by pulling out a giant plug in the centre and takes two hours to drain.
- There are 19 elegant arches and 18 slender sandstone piers, each with a 45ft span.
- To keep the aqueduct as light as possible, the slender masonry piers are partly hollow and taper at their summit.