

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **BEAT THE JANUARY BLUES AT A NEW WEEKLY ‘CHATTY CAFÉ’ AT CHESHIRE’S NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM**

Beat the January blues by dropping in on the Canal & River Trust charity at their new weekly ‘Chatty Café’ on ‘Warm Up Wednesday’ in the National Waterways Museum in Ellesmere Port.

Every Wednesday morning (10am – 12 noon), volunteers will be around in the museum’s attractive waterside café to welcome visitors and enjoy a good natter in friendly surroundings.

The café will be serving a wide range of delicious snacks and light meals and, as a special late Christmas present, the Trust will be giving all Wednesday visitors during January free entry to the museum’s fascinating waterway displays and extensive boat collection.

The museum’s Crochet Group will also be threading an extra layer of fun and chat into the Wednesday morning gatherings and volunteers will be on hand to explain ways of getting more involved in the work of the Trust, which cares for more than 2,000 miles of canals and river navigations.

Chris Done, visitor services manager at the museum, said: “After the buzz of Christmas, January can be a challenging month for many people, particularly those living alone. Here at the museum, we’re delighted to join forces with the wider ‘Chatty Café’ scheme and provide a warm, friendly welcome to anyone who’d like to get out of the house and meet new friends.

“For local residents and boating enthusiasts alike, the museum is at the heart of our community, and we’re delighted to bring a little cheer to the January gloom and provide exciting possibilities and a new, positive start to 2024.”

Canal & River Trust

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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: National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port.

Situated in a stunning waterside location, beside the junction of the Shropshire Union and Manchester Ship canals, the National Waterways Museum is open Wednesday – Sunday (10am – 4pm). Adults cost £11.75 (£10.50 concession over 65) and children £8.50.

The Trust cares for 2,000 miles of canals, as well as Cheshire visitor attractions, Anderton Boat Lift and the Waterways Museum. For more information about visiting or volunteering, visit the Canal & River Trust website:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/things-to-do/museums-and-attractions/national-waterways-museum-ellesmere-port>.

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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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