



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

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HERITAGE TRANSPORT PLAQUE AWARDED TO FROGHALL BASIN ON CALDON CANAL

The Canal & River Trust charity has been presented with a coveted Transport Trust 'Red Wheel' plaque which will go on permanent display at Froghall Wharf, on the Caldon Canal in Staffordshire.

The Red Wheel scheme aims to shine a modern spotlight on Britain's rich and globally-important legacy in the development of transport and engineering.

Two centuries ago, Froghall Wharf was a thriving industrial transport hub, equipped with lime kilns, warehousing and a meeting point for both the canal and railway networks. Fast forward 200 years, the area is now a growing leisure destination. The beautiful canal supports a trip boat, is popular with boaters, walkers and families, and the Churnet Valley Line operates a passenger steam train for tourists.



The Canal & River Trust, which cares for 2,000 miles of the nation's waterways, has recently worked in partnership with local entrepreneur Emma Atkinson to restore the Grade II-listed former warehouse building into a new café, gift shop and holiday accommodation, which opened last Easter.

Richard Parry, chief executive of the Canal & River Trust, said: "Emma has done a great job developing Froghall Wharf as an attractive visitor destination. The transformation of the wharf has been amazing. The Trust works hard to make the most of all our unusual canalside buildings. Our aim is to celebrate our rich waterway heritage by supporting sensitive restorations and finding new 21st century uses for these wonderful structures.

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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

“We are grateful to the Transport Trust for highlighting the significance of Froghall Wharf and its historical importance in the development of the Churnet Valley and Staffordshire’s industrial prosperity.

The Red Wheel will be a great permanent reminder to visitors of the area’s entrepreneurial past.”

Stuart Wilkinson, chairman of the Transport Trust, said: "The role of the Transport Trust is to raise awareness and appreciation of Britain's unique transport heritage - throughout the country and across all modes of transport. One way we do this is by unveiling bespoke commemorative plaques - which we call 'Red Wheels' - at the sites of greatest importance and supporting these with a comprehensive and informative Transport Trust website.



“The development of our canal network played a key role in the Industrial Revolution and British Empire and heritage sites don't come much better than Froghall and the Churnet Valley - so the Transport Trust is delighted to be working with Canal & River Trust and Hetty's Tea Shop, to draw the public's attention to Froghall.”

Hetty's Tea Shop at Froghall Wharf is open six days a week, Tuesday – Sunday. Upstairs is an attractive holiday apartment, which sleeps six. The trip boat operates on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in season.

For more information about visiting your local canal, go to the Canal & River Trust website: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Photo shows: L to R Stuart Wilkinson (Transport Trust chairman), Emma Atkinson (owner Hetty's Tea Shop), Richard Parry (Canal & River Trust chief executive), Paul Atkinson (owner Hetty's Tea Shop) plus guests after the unveiling.

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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