



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 15 November 2017

CANAL ARTS AND HERITAGE PROJECT LAUNCHED IN MARKET DRAYTON

The Shropshire Union Canal through Market Drayton is to get a major facelift, thanks to an innovative arts project launched by Market Drayton Community Partnership and the Canal & River Trust charity

Plans are in place to develop an arts and heritage trail and interpretation boards along the town centre towpath. Organisers are awaiting a grant funding application from the Big Lottery's Awards for All scheme.

As a first stage in the major project, local artists Suzanne Byrnes-Antoney and Diana Antoney-Wattam, supported by a grant from the Shropshire Housing Group, have been working with Longlands Community Primary School and local residents to create two amazing murals which will brighten the drab concrete road bridge (Lords Bridge, no 64) carrying the A53 bypass over the waterway.



Ani Sutton, development & engagement manager with the Canal & River Trust, said: "This is an amazing project which is really going to brighten up the canal towpath through the town centre.

"The Canal & River Trust exists to help people to enjoy their local canal, love being in the fresh air and by water, whether they're walking, jogging, cycling, angling or boating. The Shropshire Union Canal has so much to offer and the arts project is an innovative way to add an extra layer of enjoyment in celebrating the beautiful rural waterway."

Canal & River Trust, Navigation Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1BH.

T: 0203 3204 4514 E: press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Twitter: [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)
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Dr Richard Priestley, chair of the Market Drayton Community Partnership, commented: “We are delighted that the first phase of the arts and heritage trail is now established and look forward to future phases being actioned. It is very nice to be able to thank all those who participated in this work and supported us in helping to make this stretch of the canal towpath more welcoming for the benefit of boaters, walkers and visitors.”



- For more information about how to volunteer or donate to the Canal & River Trust, check out www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or call the customer services team on 0303 040 4040.

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For further media requests please contact: Lynn Pegler on 07783 686246
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.

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