

PRESS RELEASE

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PIRATES, SINGING SAILORS AND A MERMAID LAUNCH BUSY SUMMER EVENT PROGRAMME AT NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM, ELLESMERE PORT (May 17 - 19)

Ahoy there! Pirates, shanty-singing sailors and Mermaid Aurora drop anchor at Ellesmere Port's National Waterways Museum over the weekend of May 17-19, to launch the popular visitor attraction's best-ever summer events programme.

Hosted by the Canal & River Trust charity, the Mutiny at the Port Pirate Weekender kicks off on Friday 17 May, 7pm, with live music from the Old Time Sailors. The group, who are a support act for Madness later this summer, promise an evening of riotous shanty songs, dancing and foot-stomping folk music.

On Saturday 18 May, Conwy Pirates swing into action for two days of thrilling high seas shenanigans, including cannon and pistol firing, treasure hunts, boat trips, pirate costume parades – and of course, rum will be served in the Toll House tavern!

Over May school half term, there will be a chance to examine underwater wildlife, with What Lies Beneath on Wednesday 29 May and the following day look upwards at moths and water birds in What Flies Above.

British history and the fascinating growth and development of the local port are at the heart of many of the special events this summer. Located at the junction of the Manchester Ship Canal and the Shropshire Union Canal, the museum is home to working steam engines in the Power Hall and an incredible array of historic boats.

At Medical Marvels on Sunday 2 June, the British Army Medical Living History Group will set up wartime dressing stations, operating theatres, and a chance to climb aboard a jeep ambulance. A heritage gardener will demonstrate how to create herbal remedies and visitors can try taster sessions in reiki and crystal therapy.

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.

Also in June, the museum will host a Football Retrospective (9 June), World War Two event (16 June), Art on the Cut (23 June) and a Vintage Vehicle Weekend (29-30 June). In July, visitors can enjoy historic Canal Town and Chocolate Day (7 July), Homefront at Play (14 July), Traditional Village Fete and Dog Show (21 July) and World War One (28 July). And in August, there is a Viking Day (4 August), Canal Town and Horse Boating (11 August), Yarn Fest (18 August) and a Bank Holiday Beer Festival (24-26 August).

Chris Done, visitor services manager with the Canal & River Trust, said: “The 2024 summer events programme is our best-ever. We’re delighted to be staging a packed programme of fantastic fun activities and attractions for the whole family. From wartime re-enactments and traction engines to medicine and horse boating, they offer a brilliant education opportunity for young people as well as appealing to adult enthusiasts.

“On many special Sundays through the season, we give visitors an extra exciting, themed attraction on top of their museum visit. All these special days are included in our annual pass, but we also offer day tickets for one-off visits.”

Adult tickets cost £12.95, with discounts for children, seniors and families. The museum is open six days a week (closed Monday) until 14 July, and then every day during the school summer holidays until 1 September. The Canal & River Trust would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in volunteering at the museum.

For more information, visit the museum website
<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/national-waterways-museum>.

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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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