



Canal &
River Trust

National
Waterways
Museum
Ellesmere Port

The National Waterways Museum



Events Programme
Spring/Summer 2024



For more event details visit:
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Welcome to the National Waterways Museum

This museum celebrates the fascinating history of the canals and waterways that were once the lifeblood of the UK's economy.

These days, what was once a noisy, bustling hub is now a haven of calm and tranquillity, full of winding waterways, overlooked by Grade II listed buildings.

Located at the junction of the Shropshire Union and Manchester Ship canals, the site is part of the Canal & River Trust and features dozens of historic boats, artefacts, heritage displays and a fantastic café, shop and playground.

Over the summer months, this historic site bursts into life with 'living museum' Canal Town days when horse boating, lock, craft, and engine demonstrations create a unique and immersive experience.

Visitors can enjoy a tour with knowledgeable costumed guides to learn more about the pivotal role the waterways played in shaping the country's history.

Our exciting programme of family friendly days hosted by acclaimed wartime, Pirate and Viking reenactors, as well as concerts, themed events and hands-on activities make us the perfect choice for your big day out!

Come and see for yourself..

We are so much more than a Boat Museum.



'Canal Town' costumed tour guides

All aboard for a jam-packed programme of events!

Page 4	Easter Holiday Explorers Activities	2, 4, 9, 11 April (11am-2pm)
	Steampunk Sunday	14 April
	Engineering Wonders of the Steam Age	4 - 6 May
	Tales from our National Waterways Archive	12 May
	CONCERT: The Old Time Sailors	17 May (6-11pm)
	Mutiny at the Port: Pirate Weekender	18 - 19 May
	What Lies Beneath	29 May
	What F/ies Above	30 May
	Medical Marvels	2 June
	Football Retrospective	9 June
	Living History: World War II	16 June
	Art on the Cut	23 June
	Vintage Vehicle Weekend	29 - 30 June
	Canal Town & Chocolate Day	7 July
	Homefront at Play (V for Victory)	14 July
	Traditional Village Fete & Dog Show	21 July
	Living History: World War I	28 July
	Viking Day	4 August
	Canal Town & Horseboating	11 August
	National Waterways Yarn Fest	18 August
	Bank Holiday Beer Festival	24 - 26 August
	FREE Heritage Open Day: Canal Town - featuring Tom Kitching in concert	15 September
	Miniature Steam Weekend	26 - 27 October
	Halloween & Half Term Activities	28 Oct - 3 Nov
	Father Christmas & Festive Fun	December

Event days run from 10am - 4pm

Stay updated with the latest information
about all our events!

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

 /NationalWaterwaysMuseum

 @nwmuseumellesmereport

 @NWMuseum

Easter Holiday Activities

Tues. 2, Thurs. 4, Tues. 9, Thurs. 11 April
Drop in: 11am-2pm

Over the Easter Holidays our Explorers Team will be making a giant model of the museum and need your help! No need to book, just drop by the Education Centre and join in!



Explorers



Steampunk Sunday

Sunday 14 April

In partnership with 'Cogwarts', Steampunk enthusiasts from across the UK will marvel over magnificent exhibits, partake in Tea and Parasol duelling and browse fabulous trade stalls.

Enjoy live music, entertainment and fine refreshments at our annual extravaganza!



For more event details visit:

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Engineering Wonders of the Steam Age

May Bank Holiday Weekend 4 - 6 May



**Sunday 5 May - 10.30am, 12, 1.30, 3pm:
LEGO Traction Engine Workshops with
the Brick Consultant**

Book via museum website.

£10 per session
(make and keep the kit).



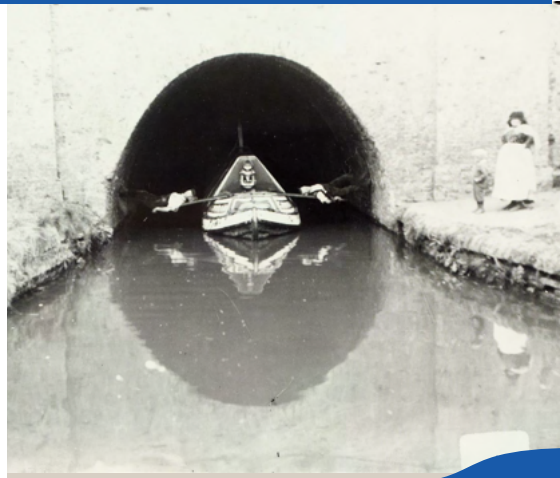
Meet the Cheshire Live Steamers and see their incredible miniature, replica engines on the move. Stop by our Power Hall to see the museum's own engines in action. A free steam trail and other children's activities will be available throughout the weekend.

Tales from our National Waterways Archive

Sunday 12 May

Step behind the doors of the past and into canal history in our Archives reading room. Our fabulous collection of documents is full of tales of people, places, boats and animals.

Speak to the staff and volunteers who work here for a unique opportunity to discover more about the stories preserved in our archival repository.



*Photo supplied by National Waterways Archive,
Canal & River Trust.*



The Old Time Sailors: Performing LIVE in concert

Friday 17 May

Doors open 6pm

On Stage: from 7pm

Ahoy there!

We can't wait to welcome the incredible 'Old Time Sailors' who'll be dropping their anchor at our Port for a family friendly night of foot stomping, dancing and singing - live in the grounds of our historic dock.

Don't miss these amazing musicians and singers perform folk and shanty songs in a way you've never seen before!

Ever popular on the festival circuit and supporting Madness later this summer ... make sure you see them here first!

Food, drink and licensed bars from 6-11pm.

Book via the museum website.

Tickets £20

(NB this event is not included in a museum Annual Pass)

For more event details visit:

6 www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Mutiny at the Port: Pirate Weekender

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 May
10am–4pm

Shiver me timbers, there's a Mutiny at the Port!

Aarr...the Conwy Pirates have landed!

Join us for a family friendly weekend of pirate shenanigans including cannon and pistol displays. Take part in skills games, quizzes and (of course!) a Pirate Treasure Hunt.

Themed games and props

Meet Aurora the Mermaid

Learn about life on the high seas

Music & live entertainment

Come dressed up & join our
Pirate Parade



The Tollhouse Tavern & Rum Bar serving from **12pm-4pm**.

All Conwy Pirate Activities included in your museum pass.

(*Themed pirate and mermaid boat trips charged at additional cost of **£5pp (under 1s £2.50)**

Photos courtesy of the Conwy Pirate Festival ©Combat Wombat

What Lies Beneath

Wednesday 29 May

This half term, see what strange objects have been found at the bottom of our canals before taking a closer look at the wildlife which lies beneath the surface with our underwater camera. At the end of the day, we'll be setting moth traps ready for the morning discovery!



What F/ies Above

Thursday 30 May

We'll be looking at our moth traps to see which types visited the museum overnight (before releasing them back into the wild again!). Then it's binoculars at the ready to take a closer inspection of the birds that live on the canals.



Medical Marvels

Sunday 2 June

Explore a range of living history exhibits hosted by authentically dressed medics, nurses and orderlies.

The British Army Medical Living History Group will present a medical display with dressing station and clinical equipment. Take part in an interactive demonstration and then climb aboard an Austin K2Y and Jeep ambulance. Visit the Cheshire Pals' VAD station and watch them making herbal treatments with our Heritage Gardener. Visitors can also enjoy a taster of some alternative remedies at seated Reiki and Crystal therapy drop-in sessions.



DON'T MISS!

12pm: From Cholera To Covid: it's a hard life.

Quiz and Q&A with historian and re-enactor Rob Moss.

For more event details visit:

8 www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Football Retrospective

Sunday 9 June

It's football season! Join us to celebrate some of the local heroes from Ellesmere Port Town FC, including sporting legend Joe Mercer. Enjoy some fun football-themed activities taking place in our grounds of the museum.



Living History: World War II

Sunday 16 June



Featuring military personnel, tentage, weaponry and displays covering various aspects of the armed services as well as interactive content and drill sessions. A selection of period military vehicles will be on display across the site.

The Cheshire Pals will be in our period Porters Row end cottage preparing a 'make-do-and-mend' WWII wedding - arranging dresses and displaying the cake, decorations and presents you might see at a wartime reception. Live entertainment from Vintage Singer Lilli Moore.

DON'T MISS!

12 & 3pm: Musket to Machine Gun in 30 Minutes

Display and commentary from 'The Armed Historian' on the development of weapons and the history of firearms 1740 - 1940.

Art on the Cut

Sunday 23 June

See how our new photogrammetry suite is being used to record the distinctive 'roses and castles' canal art as well as viewing examples of fantastic canal scenes. Bring your sketch pad and join local artists who will be drawing and painting on site.



Our photogrammetry suite is kindly supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery

Vintage Vehicle Weekend

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 June

We welcome you to our first two-day Vintage Vehicle Weekend where you'll see cars and motorcycles dating from the 1920s up to the early 1990s on show across the site. Enjoy a rummage through some autojumble stalls... or simply admire the automobilia on display.



Canal Town & Chocolate Day

Sunday 7 July

Today (World Chocolate Day) we're celebrating all things chocolate ... but most of all Mendip; the traditional narrowboat that Charlie 'chocolate' Atkins used to transport chocolate crumb between the Cadbury factories at Knighton and Bournville.

See Mendip in all her glory on display at the museum and enjoy a talk about this classic narrowboat before indulging in a chocolate hunt and sampling some chocolate treats.

Step back in time at this 'living museum' event and experience what it was like to live and work in the docks when Ellesmere Port was a canal town.



Take a tour of our stunning 7-acre site with one of our costumed guides and watch one of the lock or Power Hall engine demos taking place throughout the day.

For more event details visit:

10 www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Home Front at Play

Sunday 14 July

We're thrilled to welcome 'V for Victory'; the award-winning living history group recreating day to day life from 1939 to 1945. So, dust off your dancing shoes ready for a one-hour Lindy hop lesson followed by the chance to try out your new moves in an hour of 'dance-time' to original tunes.

Enjoy performances from vintage singer Hattie Bee and watch reenactors bring the museum's Porters Row period cottages to life at this wonderfully immersive day.



Traditional Village Fete & Fun Dog Show

Sunday 21 July

Enjoy some old-fashioned fun at our Village Fete with traditional skills games including Hook-a-Duck, Hoopla and Coconut Shy. Don't miss a classic experience in our Vintage Arcade using real old pennies to work coin-operated novelties dating from the 1920s.

Bring your furry friend along to enter our Dog Show (12-2pm) supported by Dog Friendly Destinations. There's no entry fee for your dog...it's just a bit of fun to find out who has the waggiest tail, who can do the best trick or looks most like their owner. All winners take home a rosette and all entrants will receive a treat!



Living History: World War I

Sunday 28 July

Visit the Cheshire Pals at their rest station in France (at Porters Row) and meet some soldiers enjoying a short break. Have a chat with 'Tommy' (historian, Rob Moss) who'll be patrolling the site talking to visitors about his uniform, weapons, kit and insignia.

Live entertainment from Vintage Singer Lilli Moore.



DON'T MISS!

12 & 3pm: Musket to Machine Gun in 30 Minutes

Display and commentary from 'The Armed Historian' on the development of weapons and the history of firearms 1740 - 1940.

Viking Day

Sunday 4 August



The Unknown Vikings

Come and see how your ancestors lived and immerse yourself in the Viking Age! Take part in interactive activities throughout the day as costumed performers entertain visitors with Viking battles and displays.

Enjoy a fascinating insight into how life was lived in the 10th Century. With displays of crafts from the period, you can see how various aspects of Viking and Saxon daily life were performed. Displays of live combat will give you a feel of what it was like to be on the battlefield during clashes between warring factions.

Your Viking hosts for the day are Wirhalh Skip Felagr (The Wirral Vikings) and Chester's Unknown Vikings Living History Society.

For more event details visit:

12 www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Canal Town & Horseboating

Sunday 11 August

A unique opportunity to watch a LIVE horse boating display when 'Flower' pulls historic narrowboat GIFFORD.

Learn what it was like to live and work in the docks in bygone days when Ellesmere Port was a canal town from our knowledgeable costumed tour guides. Enjoy a walking tour of our stunning 7-acre site led by one of our costumed guides and don't miss the fascinating engine demos taking place in our Power Hall throughout the day.



Bank Holiday Beer Festival

24 - 26 August

National Waterways Yarn Fest

Sunday 18 August



A yarn themed festival led by our very own National Waterways Crochet Group

Join us for a beer and BBQ when local breweries will be showcasing their beers with supporting live entertainment.



FREE Canal Town Heritage Open Day featuring Tom Kitching in concert

Sunday 15 September

As part of our FREE Heritage Open Day Canal Town event, we're joining forces with a leading name on the English Folk scene; author and musician Tom Kitching.

Tom launches his new book and album, 'Where There's Brass', with a special storytelling and music concert tour.

Documenting six months living in the London waterways community, making the long journey across England from Manchester on a traditional narrowboat built in 1937, 'Where There's Brass' tells the story of the contemporary London waterways; a floating slum at worst, a bohemian, alternative, vibrant community at best.

Performing at the museum has special significance for Tom; his mother is a founder member of the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum, and his father attended the opening day rally in 1976 with 'Spey', the boat at the heart of the story.



Tom is accompanied by the brilliant Nordic mandola player Marit Fält.

Performances at **2-2.45pm & 3.15-4pm**

Toll House Bar open from **12pm**.

Autumn/Winter Events

26 & 27 October

**Miniature Steam Weekend with the
Cheshire Live Steamers**

28 October – 2 November

Halloween and Half Term Activities

Weekends in December

**Festive Boat Trips & Santa's Grotto
Experience**



For more event details visit:

Become a Volunteer!

The National Waterways Museum is an extraordinary place full of extraordinary people, and many of these are our extraordinary volunteers.

When you look around you, you'll be hard pressed to find any part of the museum that hasn't been touched by a volunteer...

whether that's tending to our grounds, working with schools, sourcing images from the national archives, sharing knowledge as a tour guide, 'pulling a pint' in the Toll House Inn, fixing a window frame, welcoming visitors, caring for our boats and national collections, running boat trips, or working (very closely) with Father Christmas... the list goes on.

There's also loads going on behind the scenes; supporting with marketing, social media, training, technology and dealing with requests from other museums...so many varied and diverse activities that come together through one quite extraordinary team that we are so proud of and value every single day.

I would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers for their valued contributions and for bringing with them such joy, commitment, expertise, guidance - and often needed sense of humour!

If you would like to join us, feel free to talk to any of the team to find out more.

Ani Sutton

Destination & Attraction Manager



With thanks to:

Cogwarts (Steampunk Sunday), The Old Time Sailors, Conwy Pirates CIC, Mermaid Aurora, Combat Wombat Inc (and Mutley!), the Sea Shanty Rebels, Mice in a Matchbox, V for Victory, Tom Kitching, CH21 Home Guard, The Cheshire Pals, NWM Heritage Gardener (Sheena), British Army Medical Living History Group, Cheshire & Merseyside Vehicle Trust, Historic Narrow Boat Club, Wirralh Skip Felagr (The Wirral Vikings), The Unknown Vikings, Dog Friendly Destinations, Forward Builders Supplies Ltd, Rob Moss, The Armed Historian (Steve Cawood), Dave Plumb, The National Waterways Crochet Group, Vintage Singer Lilli Moore, David Ray & Flower, Billy Brookes Social Media, Nigel Player Photography, Saladbomb Creative.

Special thanks to:

All the National Waterways Museum volunteers for the support, knowledge and expertise they bring to the museum in boatloads throughout the year. We are very grateful.

Whilst all listings are correct at the time of publication, please check our Facebook page for any up-dates prior to attending. We look forward to welcoming you at the museum this summer!

Volunteer. Enjoy. Donate.

Our photogrammetry suite is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery



For more information:

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/nwm

Telephone: 0151 355 5017

Email: nationalwaterwaysmuseum@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Please scan the QR Code to make a donation to our charity.

Charity Number: 1146792

