



## Canals & their Architecture: a canal study day

Saturday 21 September 2019

9.00am Arrival, tea and coffee

9.30am **Conserving the Waterways Heritage**

Dr Nigel Crowe, former Head of Heritage for the Canal & River Trust

### **About the Presenter**

Nigel Crowe began his career in heritage in the 1980s, working in the listing branch of English Heritage. From 1988–2018 he was the architectural heritage officer for the British Waterways Board and then head of heritage for British Waterways and the Canal & River Trust, where he led a team of regional heritage advisers in England and Wales. He has over 35 years' experience of working in the conservation, management and interpretation of historic buildings and archaeological sites. Nigel has written widely on heritage matters and is a member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation's editorial board. He is the author of the English Heritage Book of Canals (1995).

10.15am **Birmingham Roundhouse & Other Canal related Buildings**

Elizabeth Thomson

The Roundhouse is a pioneering partnership between the Canal & River Trust and the National Trust to bring an important Birmingham landmark back to life through an innovative blend of heritage and enterprise. Thanks to a £2.5m National Lottery grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund the restoration project aims to ensure the future of this Grade II\* building and inspire people to care about and help to protect the heritage of Birmingham.

Elizabeth Thomson, Heritage Adviser for the Canal & River Trust will be talking about the history of the Roundhouse and its past use as a stables for the Corporation of Birmingham and will then highlight the conservation work involved in its restoration taking place in 2019.

### **About the Presenter**

Elizabeth has worked for British Waterways and the Canal and River Trust for seventeen years and has been involved in many conservation projects, historic surveys and repairs to the canal network. She is also doing a part-time PhD on the brickmaking industry of the Black Country being sponsored by the Black Country Living Museum as part of the Forging Ahead project. Elizabeth Thomson

11.00am Break

11.30am

**Sir Thomas Telford**

Peter Brown

How Telford became a great canal engineer in his thirties, although his ambition had been to be an architect. And why I would not want to have employed him.

**About the Presenter**

Peter Brown is the Heritage & Planning Officer for IWA Shrewsbury & North Wales Branch, a council member for the Railway & Canal Historical Society and Canal & River Trust (CRT), a member of CRT's Heritage Advisory Committee and the Steering Group for Pontcysyllte Aqueduct & Canal World Heritage Site and a subject adviser on inland waterways for the University of the Third Age. The Association for Industrial Archaeology has awarded its main Publications Prize for 2019 to his history of the Shropshire Union Canal.

12.15

Lunch

1.00pm

**Guided Tour: Canal Arm & Boat Dock**

Rebecca Wilton, BCLM Demonstrator, independent researcher and local historian

2.45pm

Break

3.15

**Closing Lecture: 'Stinking Ditch?' - Controversy and Compromise in the Canal Building Era'**

Rebecca Wilton, BCLM Demonstrator, independent researcher and local historian

Building canals was not always straightforward. What we consider picturesque, stunning architecture and engineering achievement was often thought of as a scar on the landscape. The canal builders, 'navvies', were viewed with suspicion and created controversy as they travelled the country digging out 'the cut'. This talk explores some of the lesser known and less celebrated aspects canal building age

**About the Presenter**

Rebecca has recently completed an MA in West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham. A lifelong learner she graduated from the University of Wolverhampton with a BA in Sociology and Criminal Justice. Open University studies led to the completion of a Post Graduate Certificate in Social Science and a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Policy. This varied mix is reflected in her research interests and projects.

Rebecca's interest in all things canal and narrowboat related was developed at the Black Country Living Museum where she brings the boat dock, canal arm and collection of historic narrow boats to life. She is particularly interested in the early development of canals, the use of horse drawn boats and the role of women and children.

4.00pm

Questions and finish