



Free Family Festival Returns, with New Sponsors and a New Look

The Festival organisers are pleased to announce detailed plans as Burnley Canal Festival returns for a weekend of canalside delights.

In August Sandygate in Burnley will come to life again with vibrant performances, and magical family activities for Burnley Canal Festival 2018. This dynamic celebration of Burnley's peerless canal heritage will occupy its regular slot on Bank Holiday weekend. The free family event runs over Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 August, as usual, but Festival goers are promised a surprise or two...

The partners in BCF 2018 are now delighted to announce:

- **A new look to the Festival site**, based around Sandygate Square but extending across the canal and into the reopened Victoria Mill, as well as along the towpath and on the water.
- **A new range of Festival partners, including principal sponsor University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)**, as they move into canalside and reopen the landmark heritage building, Victoria Mill.
- **A full festival programme** including two days of music stage, a huge range of have-a-go free workshops, a Towpath Explorers family quest and much more...

This year the Festival is focussed on an expanded site at Sandygate, Burnley. The *Festival Hub* will be on Sandygate Square, but activities will stretch across the canal to the *UCLan Canalside Carnival* around and in Victoria Mill. Along the towpath the very popular *Towpath Explorers* return to take visitors on an adventure quest!

We are also delighted to announce the Festival partners who have made this year's free event possible. New partners **UCLan** are celebrating their move into the canalside by becoming the



principal Festival Sponsor and also creating an extra dimension of Festival fun at Victoria Mill. **AMS Neve** are sponsoring the Music Stage allowing a two day programme of music this year. The **Calico Group, Burnley Bondholders, Burnley Borough Council, Barnfield & Burnley Developments** and the **Stocks Massey Bequest Fund** complete the picture of the generous organisations who have helped the Festival remain a free event. Once again the Festival has received fantastic support from **Super Slow Way** and from **Canal & River Trust**. We thank them all.

Music Stage, Fabulous Travelling Machines, Towpath Explorers, International Performers

The Festival programme brings together canal traditions with contemporary performance, music, arts workshops and street food for a weekend of fun and relaxation. A packed weekend, and completely free programme, runs from 11am-5pm on Saturday and 11am-4pm on Sunday. Highlights include:

- More Music Stage sponsored by AMS Neve. A glorious array of global sounds from grass roots to global artists. Expect an exceptional programme of incredible music including folk, blues, soul, reggae to name a few. Over the two day programme expect to hear a world sound landscape to suit every musical palette. Including the Rajasthan Heritage Brass Band on Saturday, who will bring their unique and diverse repertoire spanning Rajasthani folk songs, Bollywood hits, Bhangra beats and pop songs (you've not heard ABBA until you've heard these guys play it!). These vividly costumed artists will bring to Burnley the joyous music that governs life in Rajasthan.
- Relax with family and friends in a hammock on board LIFEBOAT, the slowest ride on Earth, or take a journey of the imagination, aboard the famous travelling machines Flycycle and Submercycle!
- Take a paddle along the Leeds & Liverpool canal, courtesy of The Desmond Family Canoe Trail, and experience the canal from a different perspective.
- Visit Victoria Mill, where UCLan will invite you to try carnival themed activities in their new home.
- There's fabulous street food, free arts and crafts workshops, children's fairground rides, a Victorian mill engine to visit and so much more.
- And for those who love adventure, the Towpath Explorers have devised an exciting game trail for all the family. Can you prove your worth as a weaver in the Weavers' Triangle!

Visit the Burnley Canal Festival website for further details: www.burnleycanalfestival.org

Laurie Peake, Director of Super Slow Way, said: *"The Festival celebrates one of Burnley's greatest assets, the canal: with art, music and great family entertainment, and all five minutes from the town centre. The canalside is a natural oasis and a heritage gem that tells the story of the town, providing a wonderful backdrop to the fabulous performances and fun activities, from canoeing to a towpath treasure trail – not to mention the good food!"*



Michael Ahern, UCLan Chief Operating Officer, said: *“We are very proud of being a major civic institution in Burnley and this Festival is a fantastic opportunity for us to engage with a wide variety of community groups and members of the public. It’s a very exciting time for us with our major investment in Victoria Mill so this is a great chance for the people of Burnley and beyond to come and see what we’re all about.”*

Nick Hunt, Creative Director of Mid Pennine Arts, said: *“We are delighted to announce a range of new and returning partners as our festival sponsors, and especially to welcome our new principal sponsor UCLan, as they arrive in our canalside neighbourhood, which is such a hugely exciting news for the Weavers’ Triangle. All our sponsors are vital in helping keep this brilliant event free to attend. Our grateful thanks to them and also to Super Slow Way, whose support makes BCF possible.”*

Burnley Canal Festival is co-produced by Deco Publique and Mid Pennine Arts.

“What a great time our family had, with new and unique experiences, not your run-of-the-mill local festival...” Festival attender, 2017

Notes to Editors

For full programme or any other details please contact the producers and/or visit:

www.burnleycanalfestival.org

www.facebook.com/burnleycanalfestival

Instagram & Twitter @burnleycanalfest

#BurnleyCanalFest

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About Super Slow Way:

Super Slow Way’s ambitious programme in Pennine Lancashire aims to transform lives and communities through art. The organisation is part of Arts Council England’s Creative People and Places action research initiative, with a remit of increasing participation in the arts in areas of typically low engagement. Super Slow Way works with communities along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal from Blackburn to Pendle, bringing art and artists to a space where time slows down, to look afresh at how people live their fast-paced lives and how they relate to their environment, neighbourhoods and to each other. Super Slow Way is a partnership made up of the Canal & River Trust, Newground, the local authorities of Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn, UCLan, Creative Lancashire and Arts Partnership Pennine Lancashire (APPL). Visit www.superslowway.org.uk



About The Canal and River Trust:

The Canal & River Trust launched in 2012 as the guardian of 2,000 miles of the historic waterways across England and Wales, as well as the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. The Trust believes that living waterways transform places and enrich lives and the role of the charity is to ensure 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

About Mid Pennine Arts:

MPA is a creative arts charity, established in Lancashire since 1966. We bring art, people and places together to transform perceptions, and sometimes to change lives. MPA produces high quality creative work in response to the rich and diverse contexts of the North West. Our projects fuse the ancient and the modern, exploring heritage, celebrating local identity and reinforcing pride of place. We are currently also developing major projects for the Spodden Valley around Whitworth, for the Pendle Hill area and with Lancashire's programme of new cycleways.

www.midpenninearts.org.uk @teamMPA

About Deco Publique:

Deco Publique is a creative practice based by the sea in Morecambe. Our work is about place and experience - we consider the cultural possibilities across festivals, events and projects in coastal spaces and Northern towns, producing work that resonates with audiences and has a tangible impact on place and location. We work with people creatively and operationally to produce beautiful cultural festivals and projects including The National Festival of Making and Vintage by the Sea.

www.decopublique.co.uk @decopublique

