



Press & Media Announcement

30 May 2019 - for immediate release

Burnley Canal Festival takes a 2019 break but plans an ambitious return

Organisers of Burnley's annual Canal Festival announce that the very popular, award-winning event will not take place this year. Originally scheduled for Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th August 2019 at Sandygate Square, Burnley, the Festival is taking an enforced break due to the major regeneration works now starting there, while other key canalside sites are also temporarily unavailable.

The organising partners, however, are making the most of this pause in proceedings to plan for an ambitious return. Burnley Canal Festival has grown year on year, attracting an estimated 12,000 visitors in each of the last two years. In 2018 the event won a national Living Waterways Award.

Co-producers Mid Pennine Arts and Super Slow Way expect the Festival to continue to grow in 2020 and beyond. Principal sponsor University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), whose expansion into canalside is helping transform the area, have also confirmed their commitment to a long-term partnership. UCLan's stunningly refurbished Victoria Mill will be a key part of the future festival site plan. So the conditions are in place for Burnley Canal Festival to return even bigger and better.

Nick Hunt, Creative Director of Mid Pennine Arts, said: *"We want to thank all the thousands of people who have been regular supporters over the last few years. We know they have come to expect a really special event, and we were reluctant to disappoint them.*

We have explored all the alternatives, but with so much construction work and so much change going on, we concluded that the priority is to plan for the future. And what an



exciting future, as the renewal of Burnley's canalside starts to take shape. We are delighted to be working together on that future vision with Super Slow way and UCLan and all our many festival partners. And we can't wait to bring back the biggest and best yet Burnley Canal Festival."

Michael Ahern, UCLan's Chief Operating Officer, said: *"UCLan is committed to the growth of higher education and the development of Burnley as a university town. The 2018 festival coincided with Victoria Mill reopening to students. We are delighted to continue our sponsorship and look forward to working with partners on fantastic events when the Burnley Canal Festival returns in 2020."*

Work starts now towards 2020. Meanwhile, however, BCF organisers are devising some very special but smaller scale, free, family activity for summer 2019 that they hope regular Festival followers will enjoy. News of these activities will follow in the next few weeks, but BCF regulars may be pleased to learn that it will almost certainly involve some Towpath Exploring!

Ends

Notes to Editors

For press enquiries please email: melanie@midpenninearts.org.uk or call Nick Hunt on 07917 148839

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 managing 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 UCLan:

The University's Burnley Campus offers a wide range of programmes including foundation entry and degree level, as well as a number of degree apprenticeship programmes. Students benefit from a fantastic learning experience in a stunning modern campus with bright, spacious buildings set in the breath-taking surrounds of Pennine Lancashire.

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in Preston was founded in 1828 as the Institution for the Diffusion of Knowledge. Since those early days it has grown into one of the UK's largest universities with a staff and student community approaching 38,000 and an employment-focused course portfolio containing over 350 undergraduate programmes and nearly 250 postgraduate courses. The University has an established research reputation with world-leading or internationally excellent work taking place within the areas of Business, Health, Humanities and Science.

As a truly global institution with an established campus in Cyprus, UCLan's student body includes 120 nationalities and its partnership network extends to 125 countries. In 2013 the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings awarded UCLan the full five stars for its global outlook in all aspects of international educational provision. In 2018 the Centre for World University Rankings placed UCLan in the top 3.7 percent of all worldwide universities.



The University has a strong focus on continually improving the student experience and recently unveiled a 10-year, £200 million plan to redevelop its Preston Campus to create an attractive and inviting, world-class campus helping to create jobs, kick-start regeneration and attract inward investment into the City.