

FUN IN THE SUN

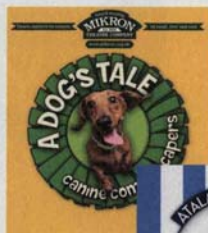
Top things to do across the network this summer

MINI-GOLF AT THE FALKIRK WHEEL

Scottish Canals is inviting visitors to the Falkirk Wheel this summer to 'putt' their golfing skills to the test at its new outdoor course. The mini green features nine waterways-themed holes and costs £5 per person. It's part of an upgraded offering of activities at the Forth & Clyde Canal attraction, including paddleboarding, water-zorbing, bumper boats and Segways. New LED and low-energy lighting has also been installed on the rotating boat-lift, through Roughcastle Tunnel and around the golf course to enhance the visitor experience during the evenings and to bring the illuminations in line with Scottish Canals' environmental strategy. scottishcanals.co.uk/falkirk-wheel/



Catherine Topley, CEO of Scottish Canals, tests out the new course at the Falkirk Wheel.



Smethwick, the audio guide brings together interviews, songs, poetry and music collected from and inspired by Black Country locals that tell the history of the canal, which was once lined with collieries, claypits and heavy industry. *The Netherton Cut to Coombeswood* is free to listen to at soundcloud.com/alarumprod.



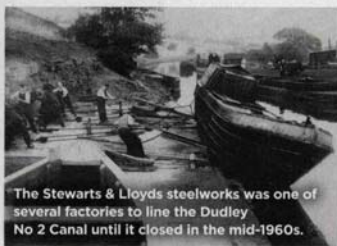
Costumed guides will be offering tours of Ellesmere Port this summer.



A boat-themed children's play area opened in June at Ellesmere Port.

LIVE THEATRE WITH MIKRON

The Mikron Theatre Company is hitting the canals again this summer aboard its narrowboat *Tysley*, touring two new shows originally planned for the cancelled 2020 season. *A Dog's Tale* explores the extraordinary world of pampered pedigrees through the halls and history of Crufts, and *Atalanta Forever* dives into 1920s post-war Britain when women's football becomes big news. The shows will take place at outdoor locations across the network until 19th September. All tickets must be booked in advance. mikron.org.uk/tour_dates



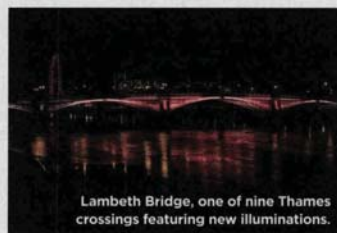
The Stewarts & Lloyds steelworks was one of several factories to line the Dudley No 2 Canal until it closed in the mid-1960s.

DUDLEY CANAL AUDIO TRAIL

A new audio trail for the 2½-mile stretch of the Dudley No 2 Canal between Windmill End Junction and Coombeswood has been released by Alarum Productions. Created by Heather Wastie, co-director of Alarum, and Sam Frankie Fox, a sound designer from



The Chichester Ship Canal Trust is running 75-minute trips aboard *Kingfisher* four times a day.



Lambeth Bridge, one of nine Thames crossings featuring new illuminations.

PAUL CRAWLEY

BRIGHT LIGHTS OF LONDON

Following the lighting of nine Thames bridges in central London, the **Illuminated River** Project has teamed up with the Official Guides to the City of London for a series of evening walks. Taking place through July and August, each tour lasts around 80 minutes and reveals the background to the brand-new lighting designs by artist Leo Villareal. Alternatively, visitors to the city can download a free audio tour and custom map for their own adventure, as well as a kids' pack with pictures to colour in and fun facts about all of the bridges. illuminatedriver.london/discover

TRIP-BOATS BACK IN ACTION

Waterways organisations across the network are welcoming visitors back on board their passenger-boats for short jaunts, day trips and themed cruises, many having taken the time over the last year to undertake repairs and updates to their craft or train new volunteers. Enduringly popular, canal-boat trips fill up fast, so get in touch with your local operator to book tickets in advance.



The John Bunyan boat team operates a wide selection of catered cruises on the River Great Ouse.

STEVE ASHLEY

LIVING HISTORY AT ELLESMERE PORT

The National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port will be transformed into a living heritage 'canal town' this summer, allowing visitors to see first-hand how the global port on the Shropshire Union and Manchester Ship canals would have looked and operated in the late 19th century. Old ship warehouses, worker cottages, docks, locks and stables will be brought to life by costumed volunteers offering free guided tours featuring storytelling, street games and family-friendly activities.

The Canal & River Trust has also created a new audio trail, extra outdoor café seating and an extensive children's play area at the site. A floating garden in the shape of a narrowboat has been installed to provide a biodiverse habitat for native wildlife, and an exhibition of waterways images captured by CRT photographer-in-residence Jonathan Goldberg will be on display alongside the museum's permanent collections until 9th August. canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/national-waterways-museum