Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal

World Heritage Week

20-26 September 2010

20 - 26 Walks, Talks and Tours

Saturday 25 – Live Music, BBQ, Heritage Area, Children’s Entertainment!
Welcome to the Programme for World Heritage Week at Pontcysyllt Aqueduct and Canal

This week long programme of walks, talks and tours offers an opportunity to explore some of the lesser known parts of the World Heritage Site, in the company of individuals with excellent local knowledge. But if you prefer something a bit more relaxing, visit the star attraction itself - Pontcysyllt Aqueduct - on Saturday 25 September from 12 noon - 6pm and enjoy the live music, barbecue, canal heritage displays, guided walks, coach tours, ‘Show and Tell’ session and children’s entertainment at Trevor Basin.

INFORMATION
Ring the Events Team on 01978 292537

HOW TO BOOK
If you would like to join one of the walks, talks or tours, it is essential to reserve a place. Tickets for these events are FREE and, with the exception of two walks on Sunday 26 September, can be obtained from Wrexham Tourist Information Centre. Full directions, including information on parking, will be sent with your tickets.

Ticket Booking Line: 01978 292015
Email: tic@wrexham.gov.uk
In person: Wrexham Tourist Information Centre, Lambpit Street, Wrexham, LL11 1AR
Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm,

A BIT ABOUT THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE

When Thomas Telford finished his Pontcysyllt Aqueduct at Trevor in 1805, it was the tallest canal boat crossing in the world.

Last year UNESCO made this masterpiece of civil engineering - along with 11 miles of the Llangollen Canal - a World Heritage Site. This means that it’s on a par with places such as the Pyramids, Machu Picchu, the Taj Mahal and the Acropolis. If that’s not worth celebrating, we don’t know what is!

Makes you think, doesn’t it?

- The 11-mile site boasts 168 heritage features and structures, all linking like a giant jigsaw puzzle from the picturesque Horseshoe Falls to Gledrid Bridge. It straddles two countries, Wales and England, and three counties - Wrexham, Denbighshire and Shropshire.
- Pontcysyllt Aqueduct took more than a decade to construct and still dominates the landscape, two centuries after 8,000 people cheered its opening in November 1805.
- At its centre, the towering edifice reaches a height of 126 feet from the river bed - to this day the highest navigable aqueduct in the world. Its height was made possible by 19 slender masonry piers which are partly hollow and taper at their summit. The 1,007 feet long cast iron trough holds 1.5 million litres of water and takes two hours to drain.

For more information about Pontcysyllt Aqueduct and Canal, go to www.pontcysyllt-worldheritage.co.uk
Monday 20 September

Chirk to Pentre and Black Park
This walk takes in part of the Llangollen canal and the area around the former Black Park colliery - once one of the most productive coal mines in the region. We will be exploring what is left of the coal-workings, the housing built to accommodate the workers and their families, and the railway systems that connected them to the wharf on the canal. (Level of difficulty: Moderate. 5.6 miles/9km)

Time: 2.00pm - 4.30pm
Start From: Former Estate Office, Station Road, Chirk
Walk organised by Gwynedd Industrial History Society

World Heritage Site Towpath Tidy
If you can spare a few hours, we’re on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers to participate in a summer clean-up of the World Heritage Site. Activities will involve painting, vegetation removal and litter picking and the ground could be rough, uneven and muddy. Please bring old clothes, waterproofs, sturdy footwear, a packed lunch and a drink. (Level of difficulty: Moderate - expect muddy, uneven terrain. 3 - 4 miles/4-7km)

Time: 10.00am–2.00pm
Start From: Car park at Bryn Howel Hotel, Llangollen

Tuesday 21 September

Walking the Stone Route to the Canal
Geologist, Dr Jacqui Malpas, is set to change the way you think about the landscape during this exploration of the probable transportation route of the stone used in the building of Telford’s masterpiece. From the Ebenezer Centre to Graig Quarry and the aqueduct, geological facts will be interspersed with snippets of history from local expert, Sonia Benbow-Jones. (Level of difficulty: Medium. Some rough ground and steps. 2 miles/3.5km)

Time: 10.00am-1.00pm
Start from: Ebenezer Chapel, Cefn Mawr

Horseshoe Falls Meter House
Open Day
The historic meter house controls water flow between the River Dee and the Llangollen Canal at Horseshoe Falls yet, despite having stood as silent guardian over the scene for over 60 years, its interior remains a mystery to local people and visitors alike. Experts will be on hand to explain the workings of the meter house and why it is still as important today as it was 60 years ago. Park in Llantysilio Green Car Park and walk to the Meter House. (about 1km/0.62 miles)

Time: 10.30am-11.30am OR 1.30pm-2.30pm
Location: Meter House, Horseshoe Falls

The Historic Industrial Village of Cefn Mawr - Townscape Heritage Initiative
The walk will focus on the achievements of the Cefn Mawr Townscape Heritage Initiative in restoring the built heritage of the historic industrial village of Cefn Mawr, and will help illustrate the importance of the village to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. By looking at the buildings and streets of the central area it will highlight the significance of the Cefn stone, the Cefn Quarries, the Ruabon brick, and the former tramway network. (Level of difficulty: Moderate, some hills and steps. 0.62 miles/1km)

Time: 2.30pm-3.30pm
Start from: Ebenezer Chapel, Cefn Mawr
Tuesday 21 September

Offa’s Dyke
This talk by local author and independent archaeologist, Margaret Worthington, will focus on research over the last 30 years which has shed new light on the length and purpose of this 8th century bank and ditch along the Welsh Marches and its relationship to the Pillar of Eliseg.

Time: 7.00pm-8.15pm
Location: The Hand Hotel, Chirk

Wednesday 22 September

Ancient Tree Hunt at the World Heritage Site
The fantastic ancient trees within the World Heritage Site are powerhouses of biodiversity. Learn about them from Rob McBride, tree hunter and Woodland Trust ancient tree hunt verifier, and help to survey and measure them. After a short talk and a walk to Bryn Howel, it’s back to Trevor Community Centre for lunch, a review of the data collected and a slide show of the day’s photographs. Bring a packed lunch. (Level of difficulty: Medium. Mainly towpath with diversions to reach trees. 3 miles/4.8km).

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Start From: Garth and Trevor Community Centre.

From Ty Mawr to the Waterway in the Sky
Starting from Ty Mawr Country Park, the riverside walk follows the Cefn Heritage Trail from Henry Robertson’s viaduct to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, where we will board a narrowboat to cross ‘The Waterway in the Sky’, high above the River Dee. If you arrive a bit early, you can look round Ty Mawr and meet some of the resident donkeys, pigs, goats, chickens, ducks and sheep. (Level of difficulty: Easy walking but lots of steps. 3.5 miles/5.6km + boat ride)

Time: 1.00pm-4.00pm
Start From: Ty Mawr Country Park, Cefn Mawr

The Plas Kynaston Canal
The sources for the history of the canal are few and contradictory. In his talk, Peter Brown of the Inland Waterways Association will cover the context, the personalities and the industries which caused it to be built and to survive.

Time: 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Location: Ebenezer Chapel, Cefn Mawr.

Falling Bats
A gentle stroll along the canal and around the Horseshoe Falls to see what creatures come out when the sun goes down. Bring a torch. (Level of difficulty: Easy but it will be dark. 1.5 miles/2.4km).

Time: 8.15pm - 10.15pm
Start from: Llantysilio Green car park (SJ198433)
Thursday 23 September

Horseshoe Falls Meter House Open Day

The historic meter house controls water flow between the River Dee and the Llangollen Canal at the Horseshoe Falls yet, despite having stood as silent guardian over the scene for over 60 years, its interior remains a mystery to local people and visitors alike. Experts will be on hand to explain the workings of the meter house and why it is still as important today as it was 60 years ago. Park in Llantysilio Green Car Park and walk to the Meter House. (about 1km/0.62 miles).

Time: 10.30am-11.30am or 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Location: Meter House, Horseshoe Falls

Froncysyllte Walkabout

A scenic walk which will take in some of the local history and heritage of the Froncysyllte area. (Level of difficulty: Medium, includes grassland, stiles and moderate inclines. 3-4 miles/4-7km).

Time: 12.30pm - 3.00pm
Start From: Froncysyllte Community Centre

Canal Art for Children

When people lived and worked on canal boats, they used to decorate their belongings with painted roses. Come and have a go at this special technique. It can be messy so please wear old clothes and bring an apron.

Time: 4.00pm - 5.00pm
Location: The Barn, Ty Mawr Country Park, Cefn Mawr

Show and Tell Event – Celebrating and Sharing our Heritage

Bring along some of your memorabilia, old photos, artefacts, family history, research or fascinating facts to ‘Show and Tell’ the interesting stories behind them.

Time: 12 noon–8 00pm drop-in
Location: Chirk Bank Methodist Hall
More Information: Maggie Rowlands, Shropshire Council, 01691 677301 or WCBC Events Team 01978 292537

A Guided Coach Tour of The World Heritage Site

This scenic tour with commentary on local history and the industrial heritage of the canal corridor will incorporate a series of short and relatively easy walks. From Trevor Basin, the coach will pass through Llangollen to the Horseshoe Falls for the first walk, then it’s off to Chirk Aqueduct where the walk crosses the Welsh/English border. Next there’s a journey through the beautiful Ceiriog Valley, before returning to Froncysyllte for the final walk across Telford’s magnificent Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. (Level of difficulty: Easy. 3 x 0.3 mile/0.5km walks. If unable to walk, you may stay on the coach).

Time: 10.00am-1.30pm
Start from: Station Road, Trevor
ALSO on Saturday 25 September at 9am and at 2pm. See page 6.

Sponsored by Giants North Wales
www.giantsnorthwales.com
Thursday 23 September

Saturn, Symbol and the Shropshire Union Company
A description, from canal author and folk art expert, Tony Lewery, of the restoration of the 1906 horse-drawn canal boat, Saturn, and its role in the overnight 'fly-boat' service of the Shropshire Union Canal and Railway Carrying Company.

Time: 7.00pm-9.00pm
Location: Hand Hotel, Chirk

Friday 24 September

Birds of the Vale of Llangollen
This walk, along a section of the Llangollen Canal, will be led by local expert, Keith Offord, who will point out all the birds encountered along the way and teach you how to identify them by both sight and sound.

(Level of difficulty: Easy. 1-2 miles/2-3km)

Time: 9.00am-12noon
Start From: Car park, Sun Trevor Inn, Llangollen

Mr Telford Presents Pontcysyllte to the World
With our speaker dressed in period costume, this talk will be an interpretation of how Thomas Telford introduced the aqueduct and its associated canal to the people. It will explain the most significant features of the construction and the innovative aspects of the work.

Time: 7.00pm-8.30pm
Start From: Froncysyllte Community Hall

Story Walk by the Water
Meet at Chirk Castle gates (beneath the 'red hand') for a heritage storytelling walk across the border. Grand and ghostly, magical and merry tales of other times... A family event, not for the faint-hearted (or faint footed), will include a dark journey through Chirk tunnel. Bring torches, sensible footwear and any dogs on leads. Led by Helen East, well known local storyteller and author. (Level of difficulty: Medium, rough ground by canal, slopes, dark tunnel – not suitable for pushchairs. 2 miles/3.2km)

Time: 4.30pm-5.50pm
Start From: Chirk Castle gates, park at former Estate Offices, Station Road
World Heritage Day at Trevor Basin
Saturday 25 September 12 noon - 6pm

A relaxing day for all the family and a chance to visit Pontcysyllte Aqueduct - the most famous feature of our new World Heritage Site.

Heritage Area – visit Saturn the heritage boat, see demonstrations of historic building skills and traditional canal handicrafts: bonnet and belt making, knot tying, soap making, embroidery, rag rug making, patchwork quilting, canal painting and peg loom weaving.

Music throughout the day from North Wales Jazz Society, Mountain Harmony Ladies Barbers Shop Chorus and the Trevor Band.

Boat rides, Storyteller and Captain Codswallop’s Treasure Hunt Puppet Show.

BBQ and refreshments FREE entry

A Guided Coach Tour of The World Heritage Site

FREE tour lasting 3 - 3½ hours. Departing from outside the Telford Arms at 9am and at 2pm. Pre booking essential. See page 4 for details. Sponsored by Giants North Wales.

Guided Walks
(Book in advance. Spare places may be available on the day).

Trevor Basin Walkabout
Learn all about the canal and the history of the site and its surroundings during this short walk, from the British Waterways Visitor Centre to the ‘arm’ at the furthest end of Trevor Basin.

Time: 1.00pm-1.30pm and 2.30pm-3.00pm

Accompany Mr Telford Around Pontcysyllte
This energetic walk will go down to the River Dee, up to the Aqueduct, across it to the lifting bridge and back to Trevor Basin. Along the way, your guide, Mr Thomas Telford, will explain in layman’s terms the construction of the stone piers, the cast iron channel, the arches and the earth embankments. (Moderately difficult with many steps. 1½-2 miles)

Time: 12.30pm-2.00pm and 3.00pm-4.30pm
Start From: Trevor Basin

Show and Tell
Celebrating and Sharing our Heritage
Bring along some of your memorabilia, old photos, artefacts, family history, research or fascinating facts to Show and Tell the interesting stories behind them.

Time: 12 noon–6 00pm drop-in
Location: Canalside. For details ring Sonia 07831 542872 or WCBC Events Team 01978 292537

Information/Booking see page 1
The New Eliseg’s Pillar Display

As part of World Heritage Week, Llangollen Museum will be unveiling a new exhibition based on Eliseg’s Pillar. Centred around the cast of the Pillar on loan from Cadw, the display will show new information about the history of this Dark Age monument gained from excavations on the site carried out in July 2010 by Chester and Bangor Universities, in collaboration with Llangollen Museum. Reports and finds from the excavation will be on show.

Opening Times: 10.00am - 5.00pm
Location: Llangollen Museum, Llangollen

The Heritage Challenge

From Llangollen you’ll climb to Dinas Bran, then walk along the Panorama to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, follow the towpath and open meadows towards Chirk Castle, returning along the ridge that separates the Dee Valley from the Ceiriog Valley.

(Level of difficulty: Moderate but with some steeper climbs. 14 miles/22.5km)

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Start from: Royal Pavilion, Llangollen
To book 01978 860111 or email enquiries@royal-pavilion.co.uk

World Heritage Site Location Plan

Aqueducks, Friends of the World Heritage Site
Meet us at Trevor Basin on World Heritage Day