



200th Anniversary of the 1st Passage marking the Opening of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal on 22nd October 1816



To round off the year of celebrations the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society's Shortboat Kennet will be travelling from Leeds (15/10/2016) to Liverpool (23/10/2016) following in the wake of the 1st passage. This follows a summer of Kennet attending local celebration events along the canal from Liverpool to Leeds.

Background Information:

Having researched the press cutting of the period we have a good idea as to the atmosphere created along the length of the canal and at the official stops along the way.

The original passage took 5 days with overnight stops!

Our timetable is on page 2 - the timings are dependent on their being a "clear run" without incident and with minimum stops.

Places mentioned in the press cuttings:

Leeds Canal Basin – *start of the passage*

Skipton

Burnley

Blackburn – *start of official opening*

Original junction with the Lancaster Canal - *near village of Heapy*

Haig Hall

Wigan – *Celebration Meal at the Eagle & Child Inn*

Liverpool Canal Basin – *Celebration Meal & Toasts at the King's Head Hotel*

Boats Involved:

Proprietors' Barge & Union Company Barge set off from Leeds

Lancaster Canal Barge joined at Heapy

Liverpool & Wigan Packet along with 7 to 9 barges most laden joined the procession at Wigan

Atmosphere surrounding the voyage:

Bells rang out from churches

Cannon and artillery fire

Brass Bands

Good humoured crowds who cheered heartily along the route – *all along the route*

Hospitality was provided at key locations

Red & White rosettes worn by the gentlemen

Barges decked with flags and streamers

Join In with the 2016 Celebrations

In order to fully create the atmosphere of the day we are looking for communities and organisations all along the Canal (not just those mentioned above) to become involved by celebrating the event in keeping with the 1st passage and raising the profile of the canal corridor by simulating the original atmosphere.

We are also calling on Heritage Boats, Boat Clubs & Boaters to create an increasing flotilla of decorated boats following Kennet along the way to Liverpool. We will however be asking all boats to give priority to Kennet and any other Heritage Leeds & Liverpool Boats.

If you are interested in joining us in this event whether land or water based and want to know more about the passage or Kennet's summer timetable please email:-

friendsofkennet@gmail.com

Day / Date	Approx Timings	Place	Information from Old Press Cuttings
Saturday 15th Oct.	11:00am	Leeds, Basin to Bridge over Aire	"Elegant Barge (Proprietors & Friends) with Union Company Barge - Sailing announced by discharge of Cannon. Entered Canal to discharge of Artillery to go to Blackburn for to open the canal to complete the communication with Liverpool."
		Leeds First Lock	"Military Band struck up the National Anthem."
		Travelling	"Attended by a Military Band to gratify the immense number of people who followed their route."
Sunday 16th Oct.	10:30am	Saltaire	
	1:30pm	Bingley	
Monday 17th Oct.	10:30am	Skipton	Arrived Skipton
Tuesday 18th Oct.	6:30pm	Burnley	Arrived Burnley
Wednesday 19th Oct.	2:30pm	Blackburn	"Entered with a train of other boats. Proprietors & Friends proceeded with flags and music to the New Inn for an Excellent Dinner. The Bells rang out."
Thursday 20th Oct.	7.00am	Blackburn	"Flotilla decorated with flags & streamers and crowded with persons of respectability entered the new part of the canal."
Thursday 20th Oct.	4.00pm	Junction of Lancaster Canal (near village of Heapy)	"Met by Lancaster Canal Committee, with cheers, hearty welcome, with a train of barges, music etc. and invited to a elegant cold collation in a temporary erection on the banks of the canal."
		Travelling	"Combined Fleet continued with hearty cheering of immense assemblage of spectators."
Friday 21st Oct.	9.00am	Haigh (the seat of Lord Balearres)	"Procession saluted by a discharge of cannon."
		Barkhill	"His Lordship went aboard and partook of the proprietors' hospitality."
Friday 21st Oct.	4.00pm	Wigan	"Arrived to the salute of Artillery, Bells ringing and other demonstrations of joy. Proprietors, Committee went ashore to the Eagle and Child Inn - illuminated for the occasion. Sat down for excellent dinner in the Assembly Room."
Saturday 22nd Oct.	7.00am	Wigan	"Voyage resumed - proprietors' Barge "John Hustler" followed by Lancaster Canal Committee Barge "Joseph Priestley" and Union Company Barge "Liverpool & Wigan Packet" followed by 6 or 8 barges laden with merchandise."
	2:00pm	Burscough	
Sunday 23rd Oct.	2.00pm	Eldonian Basin, Liverpool	"Entrance to Liverpool was announced with rippling of bells at different churches. Gentlemen were wearing white & red ribbon for the embolic union of Yorkshire & Lancashire. Proprietors & Friends proceeded to the Kings Arms Hotel for an excellent dinner. There were many toasts and the band which had accompanied the procession was present - many of the band were from the First West York Militaria."