

## Background to the 200<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:friendsofkennet@gmail.com)***