



**LEEDS &
LIVERPOOL
CANAL SOCIETY**
Keeping Heritage Alive



Recreation of the 1816 Inaugural Passage

**Do you want to join in the Celebration
with your boat?**

15th to 23rd October 2016

To round off this years celebrations the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society's Shortboat **Kennet** (National Historic Ships Regional Flagship of the year 2016) will be travelling from Leeds to Liverpool following in the wake of the 1st passage in October 1816. The 1st passage only took 5 days with the final length opening on the 22nd October.

The original *"Flotilla decorated with flags & streamers"* varied in size at different times along the canal *"with hearty cheering of immense assemblage of spectators."* (See page 2 for back ground information)

We are calling on Heritage Boats, Boat Clubs & Boaters to create a Flotilla of Decorated Boats to join Kennet along the way and be greeted by communities along the route.

Boats joining us for at least a day get a Free 200th Brass Plaque
(Plaques available for purchase from CRT - £7)

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 and want a detailed timetable or further info. please email:- friendsofkennet@gmail.com

See our online Calendar for up to date information about Bi-century Events -
http://www.llcs.org.uk/html/bicentenary_events.html

In Partnership with



**Canal &
River Trust**

Keeping people, nature & history connected

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!

Places mentioned in the press cuttings of 1816:

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 in 1816:

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 in 1816:

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

2016

We are looking to recreate the atmosphere of the day with a modern twist.