

Recreation of the 1816 Inaugural Passage

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.