

Opening date set for Glasgow's new canal side nature reserve

Residents as well as visitors to the city are being invited to the opening of the new £8.85m Claypits nature reserve and associated works in North Glasgow, The Claypits, on the 31st of July for a fun-filled day of activities.

The opening of the Claypits, organised by Scottish Canals and canal side community groups, will celebrate the opening of a new nature reserve with an action-packed day of healthy, outdoor activities both on and off the water. There will be something for everyone on the day from paddle boarding to pond dipping and biking to boating.

The activities will kick off at 10am on the 31st of July at The Claypits Glasgow Inner City Nature Reserve, with activities and live music planned across the site both on the water and within the nature reserve. Scottish Canals are asking that any group or organisation wishing to get involved contact them by emailing communications@scottishcanals.co.uk.

The celebrations will focus on the transformation of the area including the Nature Reserve, new walkways, a new canal bridge and drainage infrastructure. It will also highlight the ability to embrace nature within the city whether it be by walking, wheeling, or cycling. The Claypits Glasgow Inner City Nature Reserve accessible to everyone and is conveniently located along the national cycling and walking network.

David Blair, Revenue and Regeneration Director at Scottish Canals, said: "Scottish Canals and our partners are delighted to be opening The Claypits in North Glasgow. The opening is a celebration of a community led environmental regeneration of a site previously associated with the city's industrial heritage. The event recognises the strength of the local community - who will take on management of the site even after the challenges faced by the community during the pandemic.

"I would encourage everyone to come along and make the most of the new nature reserve and try some of the activities on or off the water."

The Claypits, which was once used to line the Forth & Clyde Canal with clay over 200 years ago, has transformed into an accessible inner-city nature reserve. The area will be managed on behalf of the wider surrounding community by a group of local volunteers, The Hamiltonhill Claypits Local Nature Reserve Management Group.

The project has been funded by Sustrans, Glasgow City Council (Vacant and Derelict Land Fund), NatureScot (Green Infrastructure Challenge Fund - Lups), Central Scotland Green Network, Scottish Canals, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (NHS)

Associated key partners to the project are the Scottish Government via Queens Cross Housing Association, the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership, and the Claypits LNR Management Group

About the Claypits

The purpose of the Claypits project is to provide greater public access to, and renewed community benefit from, a piece of green and blue space which has over years taken the place of that previous industry and which has become a place where nature could thrive.

In addition, the project has provided:

- Claypits is an Inner-City Nature Reserve: located on the site of historic removal of clay to build and line the canals.
- Connecting communities: The Claypits project will deliver a quality environment to 13,000 households within a 10-minute walking distance of the site.
- Health, leisure and learning opportunities: Claypits LNR lies within areas ranking from the top 5-15% on the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
- Environmental stewardship: LNR designation May 2016, the intent is to retain and develop a diverse environment
- Remediation and services to derelict land in advance of development: services infrastructure for a proposed Scottish Canals owned development site.
- Living on Water and water-based uses: Creation of 14 moorings between Applecross and Firhill, with more planned.
- SUDs scheme facilitating QCHA to deliver 600 homes in the adjacent Hamiltonhill

About Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership

The GCRP is a partnership between Glasgow City Council, Scottish Canals and its development partners, established *'To transform the canal corridor in to a vibrant local and city destination and reconnect and reinvigorate its neighbouring communities. To this end, the Partnership will engage in the promotion, facilitation and management of the sustainable social, economic and environmental regeneration of the canal corridor and its adjoining communities. In so doing, the Partnership aims to enhance the quality of life, health and well-being and employment opportunities for people in North Glasgow and decrease deprivation across the area'*.

About Scottish Canals

The microsite <https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/ycw2020/> was created by Scottish Canals in celebration of the Year of Coasts and Waters. The site contains information on how to enjoy each of Scotland's canals by boat, bike or boot.

For information on how to book a boating holiday on Scotland's canals, including details of hire boat operators, customers are advised to visit:

<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/activities/boating/>

Scottish Canals is responsible to the Scottish Government for the management and development of the Union, Monkland, Forth & Clyde, Crinan and Caledonian Canals. As well as the waterways themselves, Scottish Canals care for 251 bridges, 212 buildings, 256 locks, The Falkirk Wheel, The Kelpies and 19 water supply reservoirs in locations across Scotland. The reservoirs cover an area equivalent to 7,494 football pitches and supply the canals with the 332 million litres of water which flow through them each day.

The Forth & Clyde, Union and Monkland canals in the Lowlands, the Crinan Canal in Argyll and the Caledonian Canal in the Highlands together extend over 137 miles from coast to coast, across country and into the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. Built two hundred years ago to fire the Industrial Revolution, Scotland's canals are now recognised as Scheduled Monuments and attract 22million visits per year.

The new state of the art electric fleet benefits from Scottish Canals electric charging points across various venues. Electric charging points can be found across all four navigable canals; the Caledonian, Crinan, Forth & Clyde and Union Canal. The 17 charging points were funded UK and Scottish Government grants.

For more information, visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk or follow [@ScottishCanals](https://twitter.com/ScottishCanals) on Twitter.