



3 June 2005

## SPECIAL EVENT WILL CELEBRATE FOXTON PUB OPENING

### **\* PHOTO, FILMING & INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES \***

*Media representatives are invited to attend a photocall opportunity outside the **Foxton Locks Inn** at **11am** on **Monday 13 June**, where characters in 19<sup>th</sup> century costume will join in the celebration of the official opening of the pub.*

*There will also be an opportunity to interview James Clifton, British Waterways Project Manager for Foxton Locks. Please contact Chris Stanley on 01908 302552 or 07801 049845 to arrange.*

A special event to celebrate the official opening of Foxton Locks Inn, which is already proving to be extremely popular with local residents and visitors to the picturesque Foxton Locks, near Gumley, on the Leicester Arm of the Grand Union Canal, will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 11am.

The event, which will feature characters in 19<sup>th</sup> century costume, will also celebrate the launch of British Waterways' Waterside Pub Partnership with Scottish & Newcastle Pub Enterprises Ltd (S&NPE), which plans to develop a number of waterside pub sites throughout the UK. The income earned from this innovative partnership will enable British Waterways to further improve the canal network in Leicestershire and throughout the UK.

Foxton Locks Inn is the first pub in the country to be developed by the Waterside Pub Partnership. The pub is one of the main attractions at the Foxton Locks site, one of Leicestershire's most popular tourist destinations, which is being developed and improved for the benefit of all by owners, British Waterways, and members of the Foxton Locks Partnership.

James Clifton, British Waterways' project manager for Foxton, said: "We're absolutely delighted with the new pub, which opened to the public for the first time at the end of May. Bookings for table reservations are already flooding in, and as the summer goes on, we expect it to become even more popular."

The pub has been newly remodelled and refurbished, retaining a traditional pub atmosphere. A raised canal side terrace and glazed areas with views over the canal are just two features of the pub that will improve visitors' enjoyment of the locks and the surrounding area.

*More follows...*

### **Media Enquiries**

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*Special event will celebrate Foxton pub opening (2)*

James Clifton continued: “The refurbished pub is a key element of the whole Foxton Locks site, which we are working hard to develop as a much improved destination for visitors and the local community.”

In March, the Foxton Locks Partnership was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £1.78 million, which with match funding will fund a planned £2.8 million, 3-year programme to improve access to and restore major elements of the Foxton Locks site. This will include the re-watering of the upper arm and improvements to the bottom basin, which will be utilised in any future restoration of the Foxton Inclined Plane boatlift, a Scheduled Ancient Monument that last operated in the early 1900s.

Work already undertaken to improve the Foxton Locks site has included the restoration of the site’s Top Lock Cottage, which last month received a prestigious ‘Building Conservation’ award from RICS, and will be opened as a refreshment centre later this summer.

For more information on Foxton Locks and the Foxton Locks Partnership, visit [www.foxtonlocks.com](http://www.foxtonlocks.com).

## **Ends**

**Press and media enquiries:** Contact Chris Stanley, Marketing & Communications Manager, South East Waterways, on 01908 302552 or 07801 049845, email [chris.stanley@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:chris.stanley@britishwaterways.co.uk).

## **Notes to editors**

**British Waterways** is the public corporation responsible for the care and enhancement of the nation’s 2,000-mile two centuries old network of canals and rivers, working in partnership with public, private and voluntary organisations to develop and improve the waterways in a sustainable manner. British Waterways’ navigations are visited over 400 million times each year accounting for £1.5 billion annual visitor spend. For more information, visit [www.britishwaterways.co.uk](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk).

The **Foxton Locks Partnership** was established in 1996. The Partnership is chaired by British Waterways and includes: The Waterways Trust; the Foxton Inclined Plane Trust; The Inland Waterways Association; Harborough District Council; Foxton Parish Council; Leicestershire County Council; English Heritage; East Midlands Development Agency and the Old Union Canals Society. The Partnership meets regularly to plan development at Foxton Locks and raise funds.

**Scottish & Newcastle Pub Enterprises (Management) Ltd** operates over 1,500 leased pubs across the UK, 1,100 of which are owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland. S&NPE acts as the managing agent on the bank’s behalf under a long-term contract, along with a beer supply agreement. For more information, visit [www.pub-enterprises.co.uk](http://www.pub-enterprises.co.uk)

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