



PRESS RELEASE

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Fun, family events at Foxton this autumn: GHOSTLY GOINGS-ON AT FOXTON LOCKS!

With its long history, spanning back to the 18th century, it's not surprising that Leicestershire's Foxton Locks has its fair share of spine-tingling tales - and just might play host to some unearthly visitors!

One of the county's most popular visitor destinations, the atmospheric Foxton Locks will be the location for some spooky story telling and lots of gruesome fun this Halloween.

Every afternoon from Saturday 29th to Monday 31st October, wizards, witches and warlocks of all ages will be invited to have a *Halloween Hoot* and take a scary boat trip along the chilling waters of the canal as they listen to some of the terrible tales.

Starting at 2.45pm and 4.15pm each day, those brave enough to attend these hauntingly good trips will get the chance to magically create their very own spooky lantern or try their luck at some traditional apple bobbing.

Tickets for the ghostly boat trips, which will last approximately thirty minutes, cost £6 for adults, £4 for children, £5 for concessions or £20 for a whole family (two adults and up to three children).

Booking is essential – call 01908 302500 for more information and to book. Don't forget to bring a torch and come dressed to spook!

If you want awe-inspiring countryside views, fascinating history, wonderful wildlife, great food and drink, or just a relaxing time down by the water, Foxton Locks has it all.

More follows...

South East Waterways

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The *Halloween Hoot* is part of a series of fun, family events planned at Foxtan Locks. Future events include:

- Amble Around Foxtan – Saturday 19 November (contact British Waterways on 01908 302500)
- Carols by the Canal – Sunday 4 December (contact Foxtan Canal Museum on 0116 2792 657)
- Santa Cruise – Saturday 17 to Thursday 22 December (contact British Waterways on 01908 302500)

For more information on great days out at Foxtan Locks, visit www.foxtanlocks.com. To request a copy of the full 'Foxtan Locks Come Alive' activity programme leaflet, call 01908 302500. For details of more great events on the inland waterways in other parts of the UK this Halloween, visit www.waterscape.com.

Ends

Press and media enquiries: Contact Louise McCarthy, Media & Communications Executive, South East Waterways, on 01908 302560 or 07917 373116, email louise.mccarthy@britishwaterways.co.uk.

Did you know...? THE STAIN'S BRIDGE MURDER

The cut (or canal) around Foxtan was reportedly the location for a somewhat grisly murder in the mid 19th century. One of the accommodation bridges built over the cut to allow farmers to reach their land, known as Stain's Bridge, was the scene of the murder.

The grisly tale is that of wife, Hannah Packwood, who killed her husband James Read after she'd had an affair with another man. James had been away and on his return, Hannah was reputedly heard to say that she would sooner murder him than live with him! Soon after, she made good her promise...

Hannah asked James to go with her on a trip to Foxtan to visit her relatives and said that if he did, she would happily live with him. There were many people about that day so Hannah had to bide her time, but eventually at Stain's Bridge they were alone. She told him to take off his 'ridiculous-looking' smock and, as he did so, she pushed him into the canal.

Legend has it that he rose above the water three times, but each time Hannah pushed him under with a stick – and he drowned. Hannah was tried for his murder, eventually confessed, and was hanged.

On misty nights you may hear some ghostly footsteps running along the towpath at Stain's Bridge and an unearthly voice calling Hannah's name...

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.
- **Waterscape.com** provides information on ALL of Britain's waterways, and guides visitors through the complete waterside experience in an easy to use, fully comprehensive online resource.