

Pool Quay Canal Festival

7-8 July 2012

Crowther Hall Lock, Montgomery Canal



The 2012 Canal Festival at Pool Quay on the land-locked section of the Montgomery Canal in Wales is being organized by the Friends of the Montgomery Canal to coincide with the final weekend of Welshpool's annual 'Local Tourist Week' and as part of a series of events marking the 150th anniversary of Pool Quay's canalside village church, St. John's.

It will be the first major event on this stretch of the canal since the 2009 celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of Welshpool's 'Big Dig' in 1969 which kick-started the restoration of the Montgomery Canal. Like this event and the 2008 celebrations in Welshpool for the IWA National Campaign Rally, the majority of boats will be trailboats of all descriptions – visiting to join in with the small number of local boats (including steam launch 'Ictus') which have their home on this section of canal.

It is an ideal opportunity for trailboaters to visit (or re-visit) this beautiful rural canal set in the Severn valley and surrounded by the gentle hills of the Welsh Marches border country. Boaters can look forward to various competitions including a decorated boat competition and procession, towpath I-spy, Saturday evening boaters BBQ and a boat blessing on the Sunday. Other planned activities and attractions include canoeing, fishing, pond-dipping, radio-controlled model boats, classic cars, music, theatre, magic, art, crafts, stalls, food, beer tent and children's activities.

The Festival will be held in the grounds of Crowther Hall, Pool Quay and canalside around Crowther Hall Lock on the Pool Quay flight, with other activities being organised in this historic canalside community at venues such as St. John's Church and the Powis Arms pub.

Trailboats can use the slipway at Welshpool's Town Wharf and parking for cars and trailers will be provided free at Crowther Hall (about 4 miles away) – assistance with transit can be provided. Arrangements can also be made to park at Crowther Hall before and after the Festival if trailboaters would like to

stay longer to explore both the canal and the surrounding area or to be a 'Local Tourist' in Welshpool. Applications Forms and more detailed information will be available early in the new year.

Owing to water-supply and mooring issues, boat numbers will be limited so, if you would like to participate, please email Maggie Ellis at crowtherhall@aol.com (or phone 01938 590543) as soon as possible to reserve a slot. Alternatively, if you would like to volunteer to help with stewarding, have a stall or bring another attraction, Maggie would like to hear from you.