

Highlights September 23-February 24

Creating a sense of place.

- Stroud College Creative Arts students visited the Fromebridge area of the canal for a drawing session, this was then followed up by a classroom session designing canal interpretation. Some of the drawings have been incorporated into designs for permanent interpretation panels. Another visit is planned for the Spring.



- We worked with the Stroudwater Navigation Archive Charity (SNAC) and Flies on the Wall youth theatre company to deliver an immersive history walk on the canal. Young actors took on the parts of local people and enacted stories taken from the archive. These will be recorded to create a digital resource on the Stroudwater History website.



Broadening opportunities to a wider audience to build resilience and cohesive communities.

- We are developing a good relationship with the Nelson Trust, an addiction rehabilitation centre who are located on the canal-side in Brimscombe. Last autumn we delivered a successful 'Forage and Feast' workshop on the canal with a group of service users. The group took part in a foraging walk, learning about local plant-life before coming together for a lunch made from foraged ingredients. Feed-back from participants included: *"I loved the information and seeing locals it made me feel a part of the canal community...I definitely look at foraging differently and see the canal as a fun learning opportunity"*. More workshops focused on wellbeing and natural heritage are planned for 2024.
- We commissioned a storytelling group 'Playcircle' to create two Christmas performances for families. Playcircle worked with Stroudwater Textile Trust (STT) to create a musical storytelling performance based on Stroud's textile industry and the animals that can be found on the canal. This brought a new, younger audience to an event hosted by STT. We will be commissioning Playcircle again this year to create a new piece inspired by the canal working with SNAC, this will be performed at local events throughout the Spring and Summer.



- We have begun an 'accessible volunteering' programme with the National Star College, a further education college for disabled people. Two students have been regularly taking part in activities on the canal including maintenance and environmental work as well as visiting Museum in the Park and

Boatmobility. Bringing the students into existing volunteering opportunities is helping us to learn how volunteering on the canal can be made more accessible.

- We organised a series of events for women with the aim of creating a positive experience, building confidence in visiting and taking part in activities on the canal, boosting wellbeing and building a connection with nature. A separate report on these events is attached.

Creating pathways for heritage learning.

- We have been working with Stroud High School to achieve 'Heritage School' status. This embeds local history into the curriculum ensuring that learning about the history of the canal becomes a core part of young people's history lessons.
- We have established a 'Heritage Learning Forum', this brings together project delivery partners to work collectively on helping young people to learn about the history of the canal. Work undertaken by the group currently involves developing 'resource boxes' for schools and an exhibition project led by young people.

The Year Ahead

Green	Delivery is on track
Amber	Minor issues are impacting delivery
Red	Major issues are impacting delivery

Amber risks:

- Engagement with Primary Schools has been more challenging than expected. We will continue to pursue contacts and develop learning resources through the Heritage Learning Forum that can be offered to local schools.
- We are yet to begin activity plans to deliver training workshops using the SNAC archive. Time and capacity is a concern, we plan to bring in additional resource through commissioning a creative practitioner.
- Much of the interpretation plan around Fromebridge is dependent on the timetable to restore towpath and bridges in the area. We will continue to work closely with engineering colleagues to ensure interpretation is completed and evaluated within the required timeframe.
- Britta Lippiatt, Volunteer Development Coordinator has just started in post. There is a lot to do under the ‘volunteering’ section of our activity plan as we have not previously had the resource to fulfil these requirements. Britta’s time will be prioritised on strengthening capacity around existing volunteer programmes within the partnership and developing a more diverse range of volunteers.
- The project team would like to align the project with plans to develop the Former Ship Inn Site in Stonehouse into a community hub. The team will need to be able to work alongside members of the ‘Ship Inn Community Enterprise Group’ to deliver a project that is truly reflective of the local community. If this is not possible, activity in Stonehouse will continue but may not have a sustainable legacy.

Activity	2024			2025		
Primary Schools						
Whitminster Primary DT Project						
Secondary Schools						
SHS Heritage School Award						
SHS Riverfly Monitoring Project						
Heritage Learning Forum						

Development of Resource Boxes							
Miniature Museum Audio Digitisation Project							
Exhibition Project							
Work Experience							
Accessible volunteering with National Star College							
Experience Day' programme for Young People							
Heritage Archives (SNAC)							
ghost stories audio' recorded and uploaded to Stroudwater History website							
archive training workshops for young people							
Exhibition at Gloucester Heritage Hub							
Interactive exhibition space at Museum in the Park							
Canal Heritage Trails							
Development of Whitminster trails with Parish Council							
Ghost stories' trail using SNAC archive							
Outdoor interpretations							
Harper Field (Boatmobility)							
Fromebridge area							
Family-friendly interpretation							
Ongoing interpretation & information							
Noticeboard development							
Canal Consultations							
Project Update events with CCT							
Whitminster Towpath Project							
Accessible Canal							
Accessibility Toolkit							
Women's events in partnership with Love Her Wild							
Interpretation Workshops							
Photography competition - workshops, exhibitions							
Stroud College Visit							
Family-friendly interpretation workshop							

Events							
Vyshyvanka Day with Stroudwater Textile Trust and Stroud Stands with Ukraine		Green					
Workshops with The Nelson Trust (natural dyes and foraging)		Green	Green	Green			
The Lock Challenge			Green				
Playcircle storytelling commission using SNAC archive			Green				
Canal Festival							
Summer events on Stonehouse canal in partnership with SpICE (Ship Inn Community Enterprise)			Orange				
Canal Ambassadors							
Consultation and role brief development		Orange					
Recruitment		Orange	Orange				
Induction and training			Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Volunteer Recruitment Campaign							
Boatmobility Trustee and Volunteer recruitment	Orange	Orange					
Volunteer Induction & Training							
Boatmobility Training	Green	Green					
Policies and Procedures							
Boatmobility support	Orange	Orange					
Websites, Social media & Press							
Canal stories' initiative	Green	Green					
Development of project webpage on CCT website	Green						
Thank You Events							
April event at Stonehouse Court Hotel		Green					