



Coal used to be loaded onto barges at Boothstown Marina

Boothstown

Worsley

Monton

Patricroft

Barton

Manchester

MAPPING MEMORIES

On the Bridgewater Canal

EST1761.ORG

Tales from the canal

Est. 1761 was set up to create a vibrant Bridgewater Canal, filled with events and activities. A place to explore, enjoy, learn and volunteer. And a place that connects communities in this part of Salford.

If you'd like to know more about Est. 1761 – who we are, the work we do and upcoming events on the Bridgewater Canal – or if you'd like to know how you can get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

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This map is a representation of The Bridgewater Canal – it is not to be used as a wayfinder.

You can walk all the way to Leigh, Manchester and even Runcorn along the towpath

Early morning is a good time to spot kingfishers here

The Bridgewater Canal is named after Francis Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater

"Romans definitely lived round here – back in 1947, workmen dug up over 550 bronze Roman coins."

Cuckoos come back from Africa and are heard on the mosses every spring

Herons nest high in the trees of Botany Bay Woods

"We used to come here on scout camp. We'd get the bus, pitch tents, swim in the lake... it was great."

Underground canals formed links to the old coal mines. There are miles of tunnels going north from the Delph at Worsley right up under Walkden.

"The Duke had the village clock changed to strike 13 at one o'clock so his workers wouldn't be late back to work after lunch. The clock is now at St Mark's church but it can still chime 13."

Worsley has some beautiful tudor revival houses

Horses pulled tonnes of coal in boats on the canal

Duke's Drive is the perfect picnic spot

"When Queen Elizabeth II visited Worsley, they dyed the canal blue but, seeing as it was already orange from the iron ore, it turned green instead."

"There are lots of lovely cafés, bars and shops in Monton Village, a great place to start – or end – your canal adventure."

"The lighthouse has become a local landmark. It's 30 miles from the coast and actually a folly – it's definitely a talking point."

"The old railway loopline is now perfect for walking and cycling. You see all kinds of wildlife and there are lovely views over the local area."

"The arch that crosses the canal was built to carry Britain's first steam powered passenger railway."

Some people say the name 'Patricroft' comes from 'pear tree crott'

The first ever railway inn is at Patricroft, called the Queen's Arms after Queen Victoria visited

"James Nasmyth's steam hammer was called Thor, it made a noise like thunder. You can still see one on Green Lane."

"They used to have to blindfold the horses to get them to go over the aqueduct... it is pretty high."

James Brindley explained Barton Aqueduct by carving it out of a wheel of cheese

"Laurel and Hardy stopped off for fish and chips in Barton in 1952. They were playing at the Palace Theatre in Manchester at the time, must have been peckish..."

'GONGOOZLERS'
Gongoozlers: people who idly watch activity on the canal.