

AN EXHIBITION OF DISCOVERY: LUCAS AND LOTTIE'S WATERWAYS ADVENTURES

"Have
you ever
explored the
waterways
Lottie?"

"No, tell me more
about them, is
there a lot to see
and do?"



"Loads! Let's go on
an adventure and
explore some of the
waterways. Don't
forget Heidi!"



What is a waterway?

Did you know a waterway can be a stream, river, canal or a lake? We are so lucky to have so many beautiful inland waterways all around us.

Water everywhere! About 2% of Ireland is covered by over 4,000 lakes or ponds. There are over 13,500 km of river channels in Ireland – that is longer than the Nile and the Amazon added together!



Legend has it that Lough Neagh was created by the giant Finn McCool who in a fight scooped up the earth and tossed it at another giant. The piece of land fell into the sea and formed the Isle of Man!



Did you know?
Waterways Ireland helps to look after and protect some of the rivers, lakes and canals in Ireland for everyone to enjoy.

Rivers are powerful sources of energy and in some cases this power has been harnessed to generate electricity. Examples in Ireland include Ballyshannon Power Station on the River Erne and Ardnacrusha Power Station on the River Shannon.

Do you know the difference between a canal and a river?

Well, rivers and lakes are natural. They are created when rain falls in the hills and flows down to the sea.

So, where do rivers and lakes come from?



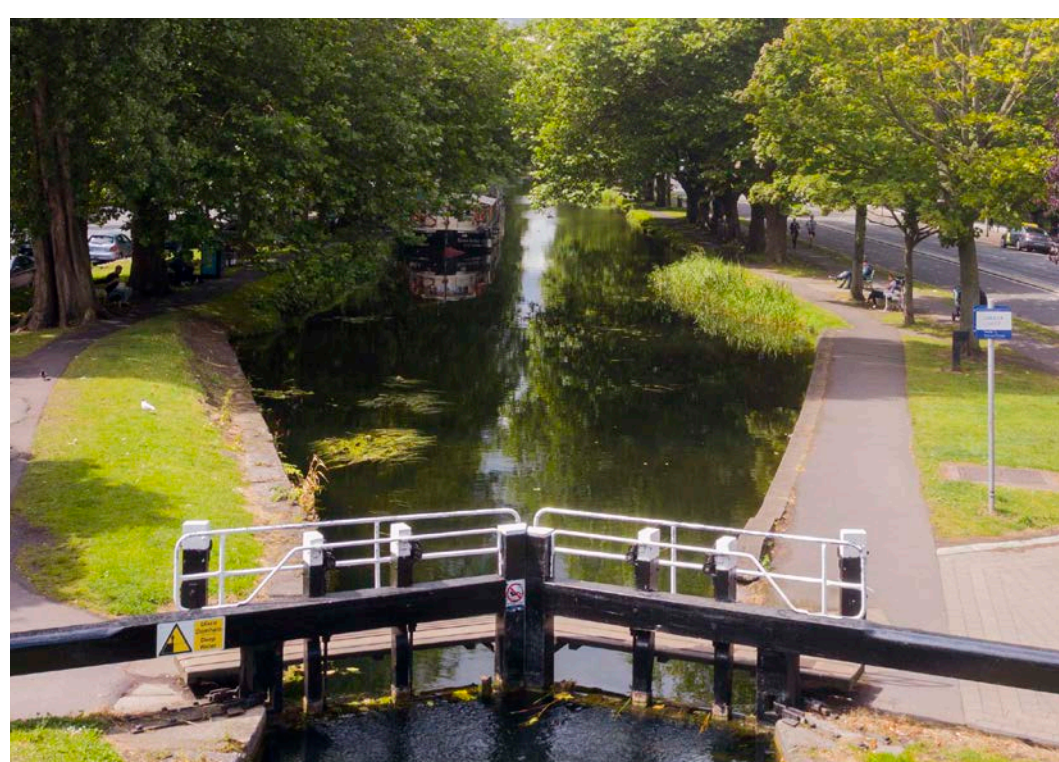
So, what is a canal then Lucas?



Canals were man made by 'navvies' who dug them out by hand. They were built to carry people and goods before we had proper roads.



Can you tell which of these are canals and which are rivers?



Who Lives here?

Right Lottie,
let's go explore
this wildlife
paradise!



Wow, I cant
wait, it looks
magical...



All the colours of the rainbow



This place is awash with colours! Look at all the yellow flag irises dancing in the breeze, their scents attracting loads of bouncy bees...



Come on Heidi, let's go pick some daisies so I can make a daisy chain!



Hidden Histories

Nowadays the inland waterways are used mostly for pleasure. Thousands of years ago the waterways were the motorways and highways of Ireland. People travelled everywhere by water as it was safer and quicker than walking.



A long long time ago!

Did you know? The earliest settlement in Ireland can be found at Mountsandel in Coleraine. People were living there 9,000 years ago...imagine that!

Monasteries

From the 5th century AD Christianity came to Ireland. Over the next 400 years many monasteries were built along the waterways and became famous places of learning. Devenish Island on Lough Erne and Clonmacnoise on the River Shannon are famous examples and can be visited today.



The Arrival of the Vikings

Who were the Vikings and where did they come from? The Vikings were explorers from Scandinavia who came to Ireland in their long boats over 1200 years ago. They attacked monasteries and towns along the waterways for their gold, jewels and valuable books. With their large wooden boats they could make a quick getaway with their loot!

The Flying Boats!

A flying boat is a sea plane built to land on water. During World War 2 you would have seen lots of these on Lough Erne as Castle Archdale was used as a base by the Royal Air Force.



Horse Drawn HGV's

What's this
all about
Lucas?

I'll tell you all
I know about
barges



A barge is a flat-bottomed boat used to transport heavy goods such as coal, turf, timber, sand, sugar and much more. Before the invention of engines barges were pulled by horses along the canal towpaths or by steam tugs on rivers and lakes.

Let's meet the crew!

There were different jobs on board: The Skipper, the Driver, the Deckhand and the Greaser. It took a crew of 4 men to get the barge loaded up, keep it moving along the canal and get it to its destination. Crew often moved between barges, some men wanting to work closer to home.

24hr day!



Sleep when
you can!



Skipper

Driver



Deckhand

Greaser



Changing Times!



What happened here? Where have all the barges gone?



Things have moved on... the roads and railways have taken over



With the arrival of railways and later, much improved roads it became much cheaper and faster to transport goods. The canals started to decline and by the mid 1950's were abandoned. Some of the barges were sold and others just left to rot...



😞 This is terrible... How sad!

Exciting Engineering

Canals, locks, bridges, viaducts and aqueducts have been made by engineers to connect waterways all over Ireland. Take some time to look at the feats of engineering along the rivers and canals in your area.

Lets meet Engineer Joe to hear all about the exciting engineering you can find all over the waterways!



Bridges

Bridges are difficult to build. The Romans discovered by building a bridge with an arch of stone the bridge was stronger and could stretch across or span a wider river. The arches also had to be high enough to allow boats to pass under them.

The same methods were used by enginners when they started building the canal bridges over 200 years ago and continue to be used today. Only the material used to build them have changed, steel and concrete are commonly used.

Some bridges are too low to allow boats under them so they have been engineered to lift up or swing to make headroom.

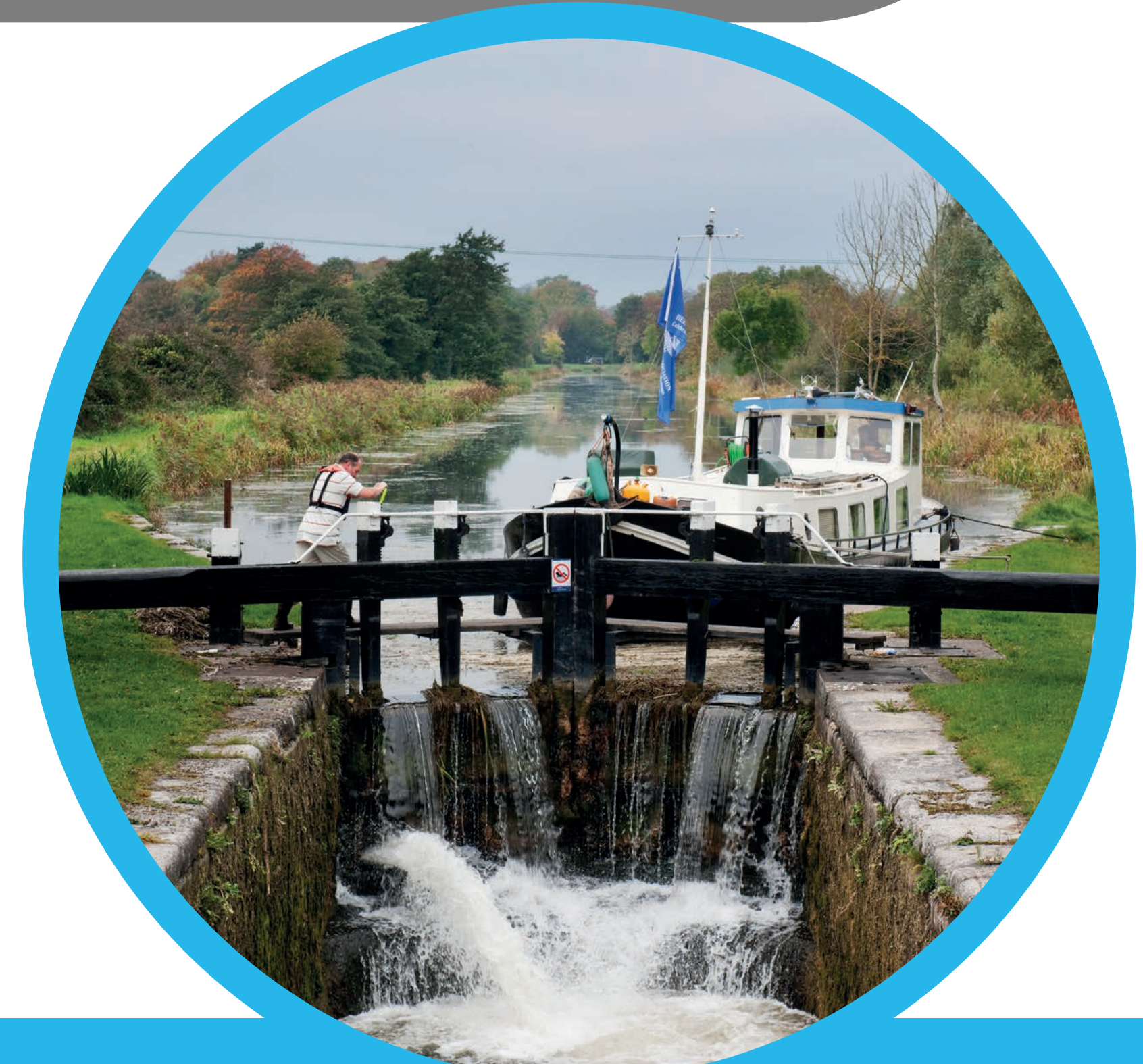
Lifting bridges rise vertically to let boats pass under while swing bridges swing open to let boats pass through.

Other types of bridges found on the waterways include Aqueducts and Viaducts. An aqueduct carries a canal over a road or river. A viaduct carries a railway or road over a river.



Locks

A lock is simply a chamber with gates at either end. By emptying or filling that chamber with water, your boat can move up or down onto a new section of the waterway... just like the steps of the stairs! You can either operate the lock yourself or have the lock-keeper do it for you.



The Waterways Today

The waterways have changed, it's no longer about travel and transporting goods, nowadays it's all about recreation and having fun with your family and friends. There is nothing better than getting out and enjoying the water!

What is all this talk about Blueways and Greenways Lucas?



It's very exciting Lottie, some of the old canals are now being used as Greenways and Blueways for us all to enjoy.

Greenways & Blueways



Come on Lottie... I can't wait to try a bit of canoeing or stand up paddleboarding myself, let's go!



Thanks for
joining us on this
wonderful
adventure! "why
not visit a waterway
today and see
what you can
find!"



BE A WATERWAYS HERO!

- ✓ Lifebuoys saves lives – Don't let anyone remove one from Ireland's waterways.
- ✓ Remember to wear your lifejacket when out on the water.
- ✓ Plan your route and always tell an adult where you are going.
- ✓ Remember to Leave No Trace – bring your rubbish home.
- ✓ Keep your dog safe. When on a boat keep your dog securely fastened, and if out walking keep your dog on a lead so waterway's wildlife is not scared or harmed.
- ✓ Be careful with fishing line and hooks and ensure you don't leave any behind to trap animals or for humans to stand upon
- ✓ Keep an eye on the weather. Ireland's rapidly changing weather can change very quickly so be careful you are not caught out on the lough!
- ✓ Scoop the poop. Our waterways are a great place to bring your favourite pooch but don't forget to scoop its poop.
- ✓ Stop – before you flush. Some people get rid of paint, chemicals, even medicine by flushing these down the toilet – this can contaminate our waterways.
- ✓ Be careful not to stand too near the edge of waterways, overhanging canals or river banks can crumble away.
- ✓ Don't jump into the water unless you know it is safe to swim – jumping in shallow water can cause serious injury. Swimming pools are the best place to swim.
- ✓ Don't forget to enjoy yourselves!