



FRIENDS OF EXETER SHIP CANAL

Britain's oldest pound-lock canal
Cruise, Walk, Enjoy

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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EXETER SHIP CANAL IS MADE A SILVER PROPELLER CHALLENGE

The Friends of Exeter Ship Canal have lobbied successfully to have the canal included as a location for the Inland Waterways Association's Silver Propeller Challenge.

The nationwide challenge, which opened on 1 January last year (2018), is to encourage more of the hundreds of thousands who enjoy inland boating each year to cruise the waterways that are not visited as often as others.

If they visit 20 different sites from the list and take a photograph of themselves with their mode of transport (boat, canoe or paddleboard) they will be awarded the IWA's prestigious Silver Propeller Challenge plaque to attach to their vessel.

The Friends suggested last November that the Exeter Ship Canal, which is owned and operated by Exeter city council, should be considered for inclusion in the Challenge, confident of what is to be discovered by boaters in terms of interest, scenic variety, heritage, and the attractive end-destination of Exeter itself and the historic Quayside and Basin area, one of the city's top two visitor attractions.

John Monks, chair of the Friends said, 'It is great news for the Canal which is underused by boats at present. The challenge makes it even more important for the new slipway, suggested by the Friends, to be constructed to accommodate visiting trail boaters who want to navigate the canal.

'There is a growing market for boating on inland waterways. Publicity for the challenge will encourage boaters and others to recognise that Exeter Ship Canal, the UK's first pound-lock canal, has a heritage unique among British canals, and—more important—that today the waterway is complete and navigable, with two fine lockside pubs and a handsome, working Basin.

'We hope it will also encourage boaters on the Exe Estuary to make the most the estuary as a navigable waterway all the way into the heart of Exeter,' he added.

More on the Silver Propeller Challenge can be found on the IWA's website, www.waterways.org.uk.

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For more information:

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