

Our new project for 2025 and planning already underway...And this is the reason why we want to make this project happen.

Hot Press News January 2025: The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal has been crowned England's "most scenic artificial waterway". The canal came second overall in the UK wide ranking by **Roam and Roost Canal Boat Holidays**, losing out on the top spot to the Caledonian Canal.

The History: This canal links the River Severn to the Trent & Mersey Canal and was an important part of James Brindley's "Grand Cross" which aimed to link navigable rivers to allow trade easier access to seaports. The canal is over 250 years old, and an important part of the region's heritage, still enjoyed by local people and visitors alike for its tranquil landscapes.

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal skirts around the edges of the Birmingham area without ever becoming truly urban. It offers a rural escape for millions of people as they walk, cycle and boat along its banks, appearing in many places more like an undulating river than a canal.

The Canals and Rivers Trust believe that this canal is the "jewel in the crown of the West Midland's canals". A spokesperson from the trust said: "Originally one of the major trading routes of the canal age, it now forms part of two boat cruising rings and is one of the prettiest ways to explore the region."

Canal Boat Holidays said that after analysing submissions from the public, it is the most scenic canal in England, receiving a 'scenic rating' of 5.32. The public submitted images to the website 'Scenic or Not', and rated photos based on how beautiful they considered them to be. **James Anelay from Canal Boat Holidays said:** "The UK undoubtedly has some of the best canals in the world. Although currently in need of further funding, they provide huge economic, environmental and social well-being."

The Adopters Plans

Our station adopters plan to place a frieze on the vacant wall by the cycle racks, depicting the route of the canal from Stourport Basin in Worcestershire to Bratch Locks in Wombourne Staffordshire.

The work to make this happen has only just begun and moves are afoot to contact all the hostelrys along the way, to see if they would like to 'buy into this project' by giving a donation and having their establishments details ON the map of the canal. Complete with a QR code for easy booking of restaurant tables for food and drink. **One way or another we will get there!**