

ISSUE 9 – MAY 2022

# TOWLINE

The Official Newsletter of the Danny



**A STEAMSHIP  
EXPERIENCE  
— WITH A —  
*Unique Story***



## A Message from our Director **Andrea Ward**

I took up my role as Director on 1st July 2016, just as The Danny had left the dry dock after her full restoration. The challenge of moving from a restoration project to an operational vessel who had to earn her own keep, was immense and exciting, but I had no idea how enjoyable and fulfilling it would also be.

This edition is full of incredible stories and testimonials to the benefit The Danny brings to our volunteers, staff, passengers, and those that participate in the special programmes we run

with our partners, that I need say very little here to qualify that statement.

On a personal level I am so proud to be a part of the Danny Team, because that is what we are, and how we get things done. Our volunteer crew are the most incredible bunch of people who are passionate, dedicated and committed and recognised as an outstanding group of people for making what we do possible. A huge Thank You to them yet again.

## Chairman's Piece **Stuart Wood**



When our little steamer left the Cammell Laird Shipyard in 2016 the super enthusiastic group of volunteers who had worked tirelessly to rescue her from the scrapper's torch knew there were more enormous challenges ahead because the Daniel Adamson was emerging from the lengthy shadows of layup and refurbishment and preparing to go fully into the public view.

The operational picture has changed over the intervening years, steadily improving and widening into the community.

It is a great privilege for me to work on The Danny project and we look forward to a future with more support helping to ensure The Danny will thrive.

### DANNY COLLECTABLES



Paperweights £10



Caps  
£12



Mugs £6



Coasters  
box of 4  
£7



Official Guidebook £5



## Welcome Aboard! Membership Report **Sheila Leonard** Membership Secretary

I hope all our members have had a safe and healthy Christmas, New Year and Winter and I imagine like me you are all looking forward to the summer and getting out and about once more.

It's that time of the year when those of you who are members of the original annual Membership Scheme need to renew your subscriptions, and thank you to those that have chosen to renew online. To any of our original members who need the DAPS banking details please get in touch with me or if there are any other questions you may have regarding your subscriptions. (Single Membership is £25.00 and Family Membership is £30.00 )

Our members and your ongoing support will always be very important to us and our mission to keep the Danny operational, so we are pleased to tell you that we will be sending out with all renewals, a specially commissioned Gomm Membership Badge in recognition of your continued support. I hope you wear it with pride.

All new members since 2019 are subscribed the

Danny Supporters Scheme, (the new name for our Membership scheme), and donate a monthly amount from £5 per month to as much as you like. If any of our original members would like to join this scheme instead, please contact me.

The 100 Club continues to be popular, and there are still numbers available if you would like to join..you pay £10 a month and your number is entered into a draw on 28th of each month, the lucky winner gets 10% of the pot that month! Get in touch if you would like to join.

If you would like to purchase any memorabilia, please see some of the items we have for sale opposite.

If any of your friends would like to become a member of the Preservation Society ask them to get in touch with me and I will send them a joining form.

Thankyou.

Sheila.leonard@danieladamson.co.uk

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## The Danny in Northwich Town Centre

### Radio Northwich

Tourism initiatives are something that feature regularly on the 'Northwich Now' programme on Radio Northwich and Mike Cooksley, the shows' presenter, has recently interviewed Mike Amesbury, the towns Labour MP, and Cllr Sam Naylor, the Northwich Mayor, who are both supportive of seeing The Daniel Adamson, 'The Danny,' come to Northwich Town Centre which will drive an increase in visitors to the River Weaver, at Barons Quay.

Sam Naylor, the Mayor, said "The Danny would be a fantastic attraction for visitors and would lead a regeneration of the waterside, increasing footfall in the town".



The Danny will already be cruising to Anderton Boat Lift again from May, this year, and hopes are that she will be coming to Northwich in 2023.

# The Danny's Celebration Cruise

Left to right: Phil Hall, Director Mersey Peel Ports, Jeannie France-Hayhurst, High Sheriff of Cheshire, Esther McVey MP, Capt Dan Cross, Founder DAPS, Louise Sutherland, Head of Engagement, NLHF, Cllr Sam Naylor, Northwich Town Mayor, Stephen Berguist, Community Engagement Manager CRT, Simon Pappill, National Partnership Manager CRT

The Danny celebrated six years of community engagement and education since it was restored and re-launched as a public passenger boat in 2016. with a VIP boat trip on Friday 6 May, heralding its first full season of boat trips along the River Weaver Navigation to the world's first boat Lift, Anderton Boat Lift in Northwich - linking together two of the North West's great historic waterway attractions.

On board were representatives of dozens of partners, groups and organisations who have been associated or benefited from the 'Danny' 1903 Art Deco tug since its remarkable restoration led by volunteers.



Cheshire High Sheriff Jeannie France-Hayhurst, Peel Ports director Phil Hall, Northwich MP Esther McVey and representatives from the Canal & River Trust, National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Historic Ships, Riverside College, Halton MIND, Halton Council and the Cheshire Community Foundation were among more than 50 guests who enjoyed a 90 minute cruise through the Cheshire countryside along the river from Acton Bridge to the Anderton Boat Lift, operated by the Canal & River Trust.

The Danny is the last surviving steam-powered tug built on the Mersey and is part of the official National Historic Fleet, alongside such famous ships as the Cutty Sark and SS Great Britain. It was rescued from the scrapyards by an amazing group of volunteers, led by Dan Cross, a professional Mersey tug skipper, and restored at Cammell Laird ship builders in Birkenhead, with the help of a £3.8million Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

This story of success, resilience and determination is now helping to inspire a new generation of youngsters and providing engaging experiences for adults and children from all walks of life. These include promising young engineers from Halton's Riverside College and Cronton Sixth Form College, as well as undergraduates from universities such as Newcastle and Liverpool John Moores, and primary school children from Cheshire, Halton and Liverpool

Halton MIND mental health charity, Power in Partnership College, Cheshire Autism Practical Support, scouts, guides and cadets are just a few of the many community groups who have benefited. And this spring, youngsters (aged 8-25) from Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral are to take part in arts workshops and heritage visits as part of a special Queen's Platinum Jubilee 'Let's Create' project, in



And the benefits are not always one way. As well as contributing to the maintenance of the Danny and volunteering at community events, young people on work placement have supported the design and creation of the Danny virtual reality experience, which allows people to tour the whole ship, including the engine and boiler rooms, making it accessible

for people who are physically unable to get on board.

For more details about volunteering, engagement opportunities or to book tickets for individual cruises, visit the website: [www.thedanny.co.uk](http://www.thedanny.co.uk).



conjunction with Youth Federation, the Canal & River Trust, funded by Arts Council England, through the Cheshire Community Foundation.

Dan Cross from the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society said: "The last six years have been a remarkable journey and this special boat trip was to say thank you to the many people who have played a part in making the whole enterprise such a success.

"More than a hundred brilliant volunteers keep the ship afloat and run public boat trips on a regular basis, which then helps to support our extensive programme of public engagement and education.

"The Danny is far more than just a restored steamship, special though that is. The opportunities for education and enrichment that it presents have the power to change and improve lives, and that is priceless."



## Fundraising on Board the Danny **Les Green**



The Fundraising Group was set up to raise funds for the Danny and to give all our visitors the opportunity to buy some memorabilia to remind them of their visits to the historic vessel.

During cruises we have several items of merchandise on sale which includes mugs, coasters, fridge magnets, keyrings, caps, limited edition paperweights and a selection of other items that we feel the visitors are interested in purchasing.



Each year we have different items featuring pictures of the unique steamship.

Although in 2021 we only had a limited number of cruises we still raised nearly £1500, and this included sales of our new Guidebook which was initially an idea of Les Green and Sheila Leonard in 2017 but was only published (following several drafts over the years) in 2021. This has been very well received and has increased income on every cruise.

Raffles on board our cruises have been well supported by customer. The winners can choose prizes from the selection of Merchandise.

Recently we have registered with a company who recycles ink cartridges and we have provided a box for all our volunteers to donate their old cartridges. The first full box which we recycled recently raised £11.25 for DAPS.

We hope with a full season ahead of us that the money raised this year will surpass the total we raised on previous years cruises.

## The Presentation Team Aid Wellbeing by Zoom **Sheila Leonard**

At the end of 2019 the presentation team at DAPS were celebrating their most successful year with 31 live presentations given to many different societies all around the Northwest, and confidently looked forward to 2020. Then, the pandemic struck and when lockdown was announced the cancellations poured in rapidly on scheme administrator Sheila Leonard's e-mail account and all looked lost. The future appeared bleak as the population shut their front doors and stayed safe, but loneliness and isolation were going to be a problem for many in the audiences.

The biggest customers, the University of the Third Age (U3A) in particular, enjoyed monthly social gatherings in community venues, organised locally by their branches with guest speakers being the highlight of the event. For many of these older members of society the event and the friends they met were a vital part of their lives. Audiences had averaged some 70 to 80 but on one occasion in the St Helens World of Glass facilities, some 125 enjoyed the story of the Danny and her preservation.

There appeared little that the team could do except, like everyone else, stay indoors and stay safe, but then an invitation to give a presentation by Zoom came in and fortunately two volunteers, Chris Ellams and Bob Cannell, knew what that was and promptly took the challenge. The event was a success and quickly followed up by an e-mail to all existing customers our Zoom offering was on the market.



Bookings came in rapidly as the Zoom app was taken up by the societies and other presenters learned how to operate the system with the result that 57 bookings were achieved in 2021 an increase of some 80% plus. Organizers gave details of their members who registered to Zoom in and frequently partners enjoyed the event so some 1800 plus listeners were recorded. The successful year raised in total £3550.00 for our fundraising effort for DAPS.

One feature noted by the team was that whereas in the past live presentations were limited to some 50-mile radius around Sutton Weaver, with Zoom anywhere in the country or even internationally could be reached. Bookings began to be received from as far away as Ipswich, Southampton and South Wales and audiences got larger with Sheffield U3A having a reported 240 listening to the ship canal presentation.

Looking forward, even as live presentations are now being booked, the Zoom offering will be maintained. Sheila Leonard, DAPS Membership Secretary and Administrator said "Clearly the main advantage of Zoom is being able to reach a much wider audience. It was gratifying to see friends having little chats with each other online"

### National interest

The team promote two presentations, one specifically on the Danny and a further one on the Manchester Ship Canal. The interest in UK waterways is really impressive. The focus of the team is to tell the story of waterways from the Danny perspective including social, economic and transport history with a little humour all packed into a 45-minute presentation. The events raise funds for the continued preservation of the Danny and encourage visits and cruise bookings.

### Fundraising

The presentation team are an integral part of the fundraising efforts of the Danny with merchandise being sold at presentations and on board the vessel. Some of the team also participate in the on-board raffles and undertake a variety of roles from volunteer coordination to skippering the ship!

Les Green, Presenter and Trustee, said "The presentation team pride themselves on being professional from the moment an enquiry is received until the post presentation promotions. At least two members of the team attend, sometimes three and we arrive an hour before the meeting."

# Why?

## Dan Cross

The no.1 question I get asked, going right back to day one, is "why?"

Why do you do it? Why did you want to save her? Why did you think the Danny was worth saving? Why did you imagine it would be an achievable project? Why do you think many others get involved?

The list of "why?" questions is long for sure and since February 2004, not a week goes by when you explain about the project, or somebody mentions it, that somebody asks that question.



Leaving Ellesmere Port to be rescued.

The answer... Well it changed a bit as the project evolved.

The Danny is unique and should be saved, The Danny has many associations with the Northwest and beyond and scrapping should never be considered, the Danny is a 1930's liner in miniature, the Danny helps people with memories, the Danny allows people to experience things they wouldn't have otherwise, and it offers chances to many people from all backgrounds. All valid and true.



Dan Cross, Tony Hirst and Capt Don Morgan upon completing the paperwork with the Ashgarth ready to tow the Danny to Eastham



Daniel Adamson move 10-4-04 (27)

But ask me today, why?

It's a two-part answer for me. First part is with everything else stripped away, being able to take school kids, especially ones from an urban environment, onto somewhere like the Danny and then travel through Cheshire on the Weaver, seeing them simply chill out, smile, laugh and want to know more, be inquisitive kids and let them experience something new for the first time is simply fantastic. I recall the first time I skippered the ship with a school trip, allowing them to blow the



Dan awarded MCA



Daniel Adamson interior



Andy Dobbs



Dan with HRH Princess Anne

whistle, seeing them simply embrace something they would never normally have access to, that to me is magical.

The second part is the actual access to the ship and seeing what a difference that can make. We have run different kinds of projects and events for young people with anxiety and other mental health related issues. They are left to work on their own where necessary, very small numbers with adults/ support around and simply allowed to do what they wish, be it art or photography or engineering and the relaxing and calming atmosphere of the Danny and her environment

can have magical effects. I recall the first time I had some feedback from a youngster's parents read out, saying how sessions on the Danny had turned their child around, made them more confident and actually got them out the house, made me very emotional and gave me a real lump in my throat.

So, despite all the toil, muck, hard work and heart ache, it is the satisfaction that it's all worth it for future generations to benefit from that lights my lamp on this for sure and , will ensure I will do what I can over the coming years to ensure more and more can share these benefits.



Launch day at Liverpool



## Volunteer supporting Colin Leonard

I've been involved with the Daniel Adamson since her working life in Runcorn – I was one of the crew who tied her up for the last time as an operational Manchester Ship Canal vessel in 1984. When I heard that Dan Cross was trying to save her from the scrap yard in 2004, I decided I needed to get involved with the preservation and hopefully restoration because we couldn't let a twin screw steam tug built in 1903 be lost for ever.

She left Ellesmere Port where she had been moored since March 1986 and was towed to Clarence Dry Dock for a survey to determine the state of her hull. We found the hull was in surprisingly good condition for its age, this meant the Danny had a chance, that was the beginning of a whole world of hard work! and the first years were spent ensuring she suffered no further deterioration and scraping, cleaning, researching, raising awareness, and supporting the engineers on the restoration of her workings could go ahead.

Throughout that period there was a clear aim – to save the Danny, and to restore her for posterity. The skills we needed were all round, hands-on capabilities to meet the unique challenge we faced, networking skills to get together the people and the support we needed, and research skills to gather evidence for the Danny's importance. The mission was urgent, and the camaraderie was great, as we all felt we were battling against time and weather to get the restoration completed before the Danny deteriorated any further.

Once we had got the funding to complete the restoration and the Danny was handed over to the professionals at Cammell Laird, the role of the volunteers began to shift. Incredibly, we had now achieved our goal of saving her. The mission now was to create a new life and to bring her to the heart of the community and find out her future purpose, to test her future sustainability and the volunteer role changed from being a jack-of-all-trades restoration volunteer to becoming part of a professional multi-purpose crew. Now we had to think not just about our tugboat, but also about the public, our audience, our participants and how they could learn about us and have the best experience on board.

As well as crewing for cruises and attending events (to publicise), I began getting quite involved with the schools' visits, youth groups and family activities. At first, I focused on showing the children around the

Danny, and showing them how to throw a heaving line. I always made sure to try to get the parents or teachers to have a go as well, and we'd have quite a bit of fun together. I could see how much the children enjoyed learning about the Danny, and the way they could learn by just asking questions. When we did the art and history project in schools, I went in and worked with the children, and worked with the local Danny volunteers and the artists to install the exhibition at the Brindley. As the Danny was based in Runcorn for 60 years of her working life, and Halton Council has been supportive of the project from the beginning, and having that exhibition there made it really clear how much of a connection we've made with the community here.

The Danny rap that the children made and performed was just great. I still bump into some of the parents three years later, who says their kids still get the song still stuck in their heads from time to time! The comments from the public and the Brindley staff, and the numbers of people getting in touch to say they'd seen it was great, the way it brought the Danny's history and objects from her together with the artworks the children had made, inspired by the Danny. It made it clear how it connected people of different ages and from different backgrounds.

And the importance of the connection the boat makes between people was clear during Covid and since. Throughout the lockdowns, while getting together on the Danny was not possible, we all made sure that all our volunteers kept in touch, and especially kept an eye out for people on their own. We had quizzes, zooms, telephone calls. We learned new skills and reached out further, bringing our talks about the restoration and the history of the Manchester Ship Canal online to new audiences.

Very sadly, we lost four of our volunteers during the Covid period. Even though numbers were limited for the funerals, one of the them had a socially distanced guard of honour along the road outside their house, and had the Danny Ensign draped over the coffin, a visible sign of the connection and belonging of those volunteers to the Danny community. We've often said that she acts as a bulwark against isolation. We really felt it during and since Covid.

That made me more aware and more interested in the work going on around wellbeing. I signed up to support

the programme with vulnerable young people in the summer, and saw how some very withdrawn young people began to feel at home and to trust themselves to try new things aboard the Danny. I talked to their families and heard about how they had built up confidence and started to come out of themselves as a result of simply coming down to the boat once a week, and spending time on her and on the riverside, trying creative activities and learning about the boat and its history. I could see that the Danny's knack of making connections with and between people is really powerful and could be really important for people. I'm proud to support our society in developing this going forward and feel it's a really important direction for us. I went on

that wellbeing trip last year and spoke to Halton Mind and Youth Federation and the Community Development team from Canal and River Trust. I'm really pleased that we are going to continue this work going forward and developing new work that connects people and uses the Danny's story and environment to improve people's sense of wellbeing. And I'm very pleased to support the Danny in this new phase of its life. When we saved the Danny, we didn't have a clear picture of what her role would be in our community. I am proud that she brings enjoyment to so many through cruises and events. But I am especially proud that it has such positive impact on people's lives and am proud to support it in developing in this role.

**The following articles give some feedback from organisations we have partnered with to broaden our reach and impact and to improve lives in our communities.**

## Youth Federation

Youth Fed is a youth charity that supports over 5,000 young people between the ages of 10 and 29, helping to improve their lives through direct delivery youth work, alternative education and partnership with the voluntary and mental health sectors to deliver support and training to the frontline of community youth work.

We enable young people to thrive and achieve their full potential, regardless of background or circumstance. Our objectives are:

- To advance in life and help young people through the provision of recreational and curriculum enriching activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their standard of living.
- Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- To act as a resource for young people by providing advice, assistance, services, training and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of advancing education and relieving unemployment.

We work across Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral, supporting some of the most marginalised young people in the region. Operations Director Kevin Bradburne is an enthusiastic advocate of partnering with the Danny to create new opportunities for young people to connect, to learn together and to showcase their ideas. "The story of the Danny and the volunteers



is a real inspiration – it's a symbol of resilience and community, and it's a beautiful and prestigious place for young people to feel welcomed. Just by the routes it travels, it literally connects the young people we work with, while also bringing them out of their areas to get new experiences."

This year, we will be supporting our member youth groups in Birkenhead [where the Danny was built, and the restoration completed], Ellesmere Port [where the Danny operated 1903-1922 & lived 1986 - 2004], Runcorn [where the Danny was based 1922 - 1984] and Northwich [close to the Danny at Anderton Boat Lift] to start work with the Danny. They will take part in five ways to wellbeing workshops with Canal and River Trust and Danny art partners interference-art, and they will be part of creative, heritage and celebratory events at Anderton Boat Lift, where their artwork will be displayed.

This is a very public demonstration of the young people's value and potential, and we hope to build on this with the young people each year, increasing the participation and influence of young people in our partner organisations, and making the most of the far-reaching training, creative and personal development opportunities available to them through the partnership with the Danny and Canal and River Trust.



## Learning and participation update

### Cathriona Bourke

**When I started in this role, Dan Cross gave me my first pair of steel-capped boots – an early indication that this was going to be no ordinary heritage education job.**

The Danny was in Cammell Laird, hull in mid-repairs, superstructure and bridge removed. Safely outfitted in my shiny new steel-capped boots, I enjoyed the thrill of walking down the steps hewn into the stone to make Dry Dock no. 4 – it felt like stepping down into the nineteenth century.

I quickly realised the depth of engineering and naval architecture knowledge of the Danny volunteers who had undertaken the huge task of the restoration. It took me a while to appreciate the full extent of their achievement in marshalling the political and social support, the numbers of committed volunteers, the historical knowledge and institutional backing and the business and programme planning they needed to make a successful bid for the £3.8million of Heritage Funding needed to complete the restoration.

We were really lucky that we had the support of the



Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), as it was called back then, not only to fund the vast majority of the shipyard restoration work, but also to support us through fantastic mentors across all areas of the operation. I learned a huge amount through conversations with my mentor, Dr Tim Caulton, who supported me in delivering the learning and participation objectives in the Danny's five-year plan, and in following the spirit of the plan, adapting to opportunities and pitfalls that arose when the plan hit reality. For the first phase of the Danny's restoration, the volunteers were focussed on saving the Danny – the Heritage Fund team supported saving the Danny, but made us ask for who? Who was going to benefit and how?

As I looked at the Danny in the shipyard, it wasn't fully clear how we were going to work with the schoolchildren and families and university students and all the community groups identified in the plan, and what they were going to get from it.

On our first school project with an inner-city Liverpool school, I got the beginnings of an answer. One of the children (instigator of the teddy bear trail) asked about the value of the Danny – why spend all that money restoring it rather than buy a new boat (or two). Another hand shot up. It would be like if you came home and you found that your mum had got rid of your teddy you'd had since you were a baby, which held all your memories, and replaced it with a brand-new teddy. Outrage ensued at the very thought. The children had immediately grasped the love the volunteers had for the vessel, and her role as a repository of social memory.

The children from this first group came on our first school cruise, all bar one who had been the keenest as his dad had worked on ships, but who had lost his father and had been off school at the time of the trip. The volunteers insisted on inviting him down with his mum, opening the vessel just for the two of them, and they had gathered Danny mementoes to give to him. One of the volunteers called me afterwards to

tell me how the lad had loved the visit and how sad they were for him and his mum. I was struck again by how different an organisation this was to anywhere I'd worked before, an organisation which would swing into operation in response to a child missing a school trip in sad circumstances, and where the power of a historic ship to offer emotional support was not in question at all.

So, out of that first schools project, we got our first school workshop resources, co-created with the children, and the first inkling that the learning the Danny could offer would not just be about history, geography, engineering, but just as much about connection and emotional wellbeing.

That insight was repeated with engineering college work placements, which I was expecting to be mainly about the hands-on learning opportunities, but turned out to be about how the experience had built confidence in students struggling with the academic demands of their course. It was repeated when a high school group of young people struggling with mainstream education alongside mental health issues came to visit, and their teacher jettisoned their learning plan, because the social impact of their engagement with the Danny and the crew was deemed more important, as silent and socially anxious young people relaxed and began to talk with the crew and then with each other. Once again, the power of the Danny to connect people and create a wellbeing impact in a very short time period was apparent.

It was also clear from volunteer surveys that the most important reason they stayed involved with the Danny was because they were making a valuable contribution to the community – this consistently rated higher than the friendships and connections amongst the crew, though these were also important. It became increasingly clear that the care for the Danny amongst the volunteers created a bond between the crew, and also a sense of being cared for that reached out and touched visitors, passengers and programme participants of all ages and backgrounds.

The passion for sharing the Danny's story has crossed all kinds of geographic barriers, since the volunteers went digital during lockdown, but volunteers have always been keen to reach out across barriers of communication, knowledge and understanding. One of our engineers was surprised to find that despite a lifetime working as an engineer, and signing up for the Danny because of this interest, it wasn't showing fellow engineers and steam enthusiasts around that he enjoyed the most:



'Nothing was as meaningful for me as translating the Danny's story into a form that the young people with learning differences could relate to, and seeing their excitement and enthusiasm.' Again, the feedback from the students that he had worked with spoke not just about what they had learned, but about how their confidence had grown, and about how happy they had been on the Danny, how good it had made them feel.

Through the period of support from the Heritage Fund, as it is now known, we engaged with children, families, schools, disability groups, deaf groups, universities, local authorities, social groups for older people, heritage groups and cultural and arts organisations. We ran exhibition projects with college art students, placements with engineering students, creative history and exhibition projects with primary schools, heritage and music events with local groups and many school workshops and trips. We had the chance to explore widely who stood to benefit from the Danny.

We were lucky to be supported by Peel Ports for three years, and their support, together with Cultural Recovery Funding, Heritage Emergency Funding and Garfield Weston funding saw us through the tough Covid times. These times saw the community of the volunteers draw together to support one another and reach out via the quickly embraced medium





of zoom to connect with new audiences. The stark experiences of this period gave us all a new sense of the importance of the Danny community and a desire to get back out there together and a new commitment to supporting the wellbeing and social connections of our communities, for which our amazing volunteers were recognised by National Historic Ships and Marsh Charitable Trust and were joint Winners of the Group Volunteer Award in November 2021.

We are very proud to be piloting and testing out ways that we can harness the wellbeing potential of the Danny working in partnership with our local community. The resilience of the volunteers in saving the Danny and caring for her is the inspiration for a new wellbeing course for adults being created by Halton MIND CEO, Nic Lunt, working with our arts partners at interference-art.

We know that our story is inspirational and the warmth of welcome of our volunteers fosters social connections and community, but we also know that our setting, allowing access to green and blue natural spaces, is crucial for wellbeing. And in facilitating access to this environment, we are lucky to partner with Canal and River Trust, with whom we share many youth and community engagement aims. Where we can provide a warm and welcoming community, a heritage setting and story to engage,

and hands on activities around the vessel, they can introduce water-based activities, carbon literacy learning, introduction to careers around the waterways, a Northwest youth network and many training and development opportunities.

Through our partnership with Youth Federation, we are reaching the most disadvantaged young people in our area, and creating opportunities for engagement, confidence-building, learning and for them to give back to the community, and see their contribution valued and respected. This summer sees the first pilot project based around the five ways to wellbeing, and we look forward to displaying the project outcomes at the Anderton Boat Lift in June, and to evaluating with the young people the impact of the project and their ideas for the future.

We have also changed our schools offer to meet the new needs of a generation of children who have had two years of disrupted learning, which have had the greatest impact on those already facing health, disability, social, economic or mental health challenges at home. We are trialling our new programmes, based around wellbeing, literacy and numeracy (in the context of a rich cultural learning experience) with Halton Virtual School, who support looked after children across early years and all school key stages.

We have had great support from National Historic Ships in forming a network and sharing practice with other historic ships who have harnessed the wellbeing potential of their settings to change and improve lives, and we believe we have found the way to achieving our aim of providing transformational learning experiences.

We know we will only get there with the continued support, engagement, and critical friendship of our partners and supporters. We would like to thank you for all your help up to this point, and to invite you to stay aboard to help us steer this new course.



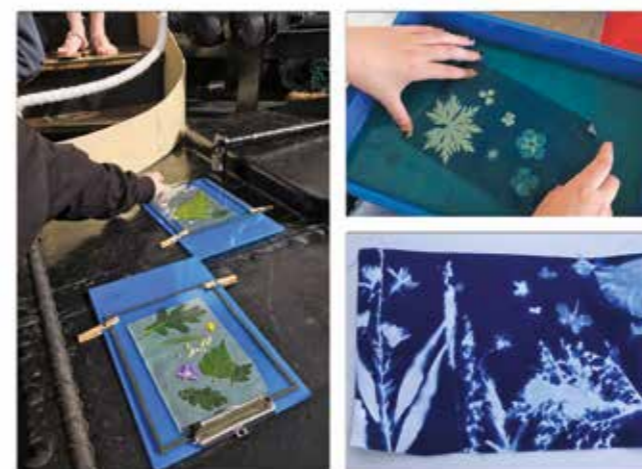
## Interference-art

interference-art are a collective of community artists and designers based in the Northwest but working locally, nationally and online. We're big believers in the power of a cuppa, a special space and doing something creative. We love using art to help people be curious, and build skills, confidence and wellbeing.

interference-art produce workshops that connect people to themselves, their area and each other. We match our materials and making to the people taking part. On the Danny we've worked on wellbeing with families and vulnerable young people, using photography, cyanotypes, embroidery, watercolours, mark-making, print, zine-making, film and animation. Other recent projects have seen us collaborate with Tate online to support young people seeking creative careers, The Booth Centre (a community centre run in partnership with people affected by homelessness) to make an art display at Manchester Art Gallery, and The Whitworth on award-winning art workshops for parents who have experienced baby loss.

interference-art also manage cultural projects, set up spaces and make resources. We help organisations big and small to welcome and work with their communities. We support our partners plan, produce, record and reflect on their projects. Lately we've been teaming up with: Tameside Cultural Services to refresh their museum and archive education offer, Platt Hall to reach out to people living nearby while the building is redeveloped, the Sainsbury Archive on an age and dementia-friendly resource around food memories, and National Football Museum staff and families to create a playful family-friendly zone.

When we collaborate, art and heritage can help people feel part of something and feel bet-ter. The Danny is a beautiful backdrop with a big history - but so much more. The community caring for the Danny sets the scene for positive possibilities to play out for people of all ages today. The invitation to take part and impact on wellbeing last long beyond a Danny visit. [www.interference-art.co.uk](http://www.interference-art.co.uk)



## Our Work with the Danny from Cronton Sixth Form

Sandra Brown,  
Placement Officer



Cronton Sixth Form College is an Ofsted Outstanding further education college in Widnes, Cheshire. Students are firmly at the centre of everything we do and are supported to reach their full potential, whilst also enjoying an inclusive and supportive college community where they can thrive.

We support all young people to develop and achieve, whatever their starting points, and had 100% A-level and BTEC pass rates in 2021, with high levels of students achieving the highest grades available. The college attracts students from across the Liverpool City Region and Cheshire, offering courses for young people and adults, from entry level right up to degree.

Work placements with the Danny have introduced our students to a supportive community, where they can get new experiences, build confidence, and learn hands on practical and social workplace skills. I have supported six of our students into engineering placements with the Danny, since she has been based locally to us, on the River Weaver. For these young men and women, embarking on a career in engineering, the Danny has been a fascinating environment, where they have been warmly welcomed into the crew. They have been introduced to a unique piece of maritime heritage and the ways it is looked after and maintained. Students appreciate the opportunity to practice hands on skills but also build their understanding of how the various systems on the vessel function together

"It's a great opportunity to work alongside experienced engineers and learn new things along

the way and I enjoyed the time that I spent with the crew" (Corey, student engineer, 2021).

The Danny team have worked with us on risk assessments for the vessel and the workshop, ensured the students are prepared and understand expectations, and support evaluation of the placement programme. We are looking forward to having a talk to all our engineering students at the college this April, about the Danny's engineering and volunteering opportunities from one of the Danny's engineers, alongside a chief engineering and master's student from Liverpool John Moore's University, talking about the development of fuel since the days the Danny was built and the shipping industry's ideas for a cleaner, greener future.

There's a clear opportunity for our young engineers at the Danny, but we are aware of the many other opportunities the Danny has provided our students, from being both inspiration and exhibition space for our art students, to running art and wellbeing engagement projects that have supported some of our students through the transition from school into college. The Danny gives our students and young people an authentic environment to build confidence and skills, a welcoming community they can be part of and a beautiful environment that they can be proud of supporting. We are delighted to have the Danny in our region and look forward to working in partnership for the continued benefit of our students, and hopefully for the continued benefit of the Danny herself as well.

## Praise from National Historic Ships

Victoria Wallworth

### National Historic Ships and Wellbeing

National Historic Ships UK (NHS-UK) is a government funded, independent organisation which gives objective advice to UK governments and local authorities, funding bodies, and the historic ships sector on all matters relating to historic vessels in the UK. It carries a wide remit, looking not only at the immediate issues concerning historic vessels in the UK, but also addressing questions relating to the support infrastructure for historic ships, and their potential for contributing in the wider economic, social and community context.

The Danny is one of a limited number of vessels of national significance listed in the National Historic Fleet and throughout the Danny's dramatic rescue from the scrapyard and conservation to full operation between 2004 and 2016, the team worked closely with NHS-UK, in particular with the late Martyn Heighton, on conservation management planning. Over the years, NHS-UK has supported the ongoing commitment of her volunteers and their tremendous efforts to adapt their skills to the emerging needs of the Danny and her community, twice awarding with them with our Marsh Volunteer 'Team of the Year' award.

NHS-UK have become increasingly aware of the positive impact of the historic ship environment on people's wellbeing, in particular through its ability to provide access to green and blue spaces. Many of the craft listed on the National Register of Historic Vessels have found their contemporary purpose in providing life-changing sail training opportunities for young people. Working with a number of vessel projects and organisations through our Shipshape Network initiative, we are delighted to support initial research and dissemination through collating case-studies, facilitating talks, conferences and practice-sharing across national projects, as



well as social media-based awareness raising campaigns. One such project is the Skylark Recovery Trust, who over the last two years has supported over 20 people recovering from addiction through boatbuilding training and engaged with over 170 people facing social isolation through heritage and arts-related projects thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Gal Gael Trust also support wellbeing and community through connections with historic craft. They strive to bring about change - 'a kind of inner shift' - through the experiences that shared work on traditional skills creates. Their story is one of 'finding some togetherness as a foundation to greater health.'

NHS-UK are excited about the role that the Danny plays in supporting wellbeing. Their work with young people, health and community groups as well as waterway heritage and arts sectors provide significant opportunities and offer meaningful participation to the local area. We look forward to supporting them in connecting nationally with historic vessels to share research and build awareness of the great resource that our historic craft bring to individuals, families and communities around them.



## Hope University

Tracy Ramsey, Senior Professional Tutor in Youth and Community Development

Liverpool Hope University has a 175-year history of commitment to education and community. The educational mission central to Hope is focused on the development of the whole person within the context of our wider community.

For the last 8 years, we have offered an MA in Youth Work and Community Development, which is dual validated with the NYA for Youth Work and The Endorsement and Quality Standards Board for Community Development Learning (ESB) for community development. Students gain the full JNC Professional Qualification. The main aim of the MA in Youth and Community Development is to develop skilled, innovative and reflective practitioners, who are able to engage and develop positive relationships within communities, which lead to education and discovery. Working alongside communities, in partnership with them practitioners foster the personal, social and political development of those involved.

The students from the course have been embedded in youth and community projects across the Liverpool City, Halton and Cheshire regions. We have worked closely with the supporting organisations, and have had guest speakers from youth and community projects come and work with our postgraduate students to their mutual benefit, learning about the realities of professional practice.

Our youth and community partners across the region have in time come to shape the programme at Hope University, as we have had an impact in supporting them in reflecting on the

development of their work with young people and communities. Spurred on by the overwhelming need for qualified youth and community workers since Covid, we have now had a new BA in youth work and community development work validated, which will serve the region. Again, the two way process of community and youth organisation consultation, placement hosting and feedback will continue to shape our offer, and practitioner presentations from partner organisations will continue to influence the future directions and careers of our students.

The Danny is a unique and interesting case study for our students, with a rich heritage offer, skills development opportunities, connections to careers and volunteering, arts and creativity and a commitment to improving the wellbeing of participants. It offers a variety of engagement pathways according to the interests of the local community members. The Danny offers real potential for those who get involved to grow their own and others skills and learning, and also to shape the youth and community offer at the Danny and have an impact on their community as they do so.

We have been pleased to act as critical friends, to host guest lectures, and to welcome Danny input into the shaping of our new course. We look forward to developing this relationship of mutual critical friendship and to explore and work in partnership to showcase the special character and history of the Danny to connect young people and communities in the region for the enjoyment, wellbeing, learning and personal and professional development of all.



## Canal and River Trust Partnership with the Danny

Sarah Taylor Potts, CRT Youth engagement and events coordinator for the Northwest

It has been a really exciting time for me to join the Canal and River Trust team as community and youth events coordinator for the Northwest. I've always been an advocate of the benefits of outdoor activities with young people, and it is great to be part of an organisation whose whole mission is to improve the lives of people by getting them out to our canals and rivers and getting them involved in the life of our waterways.

The Canal and River Trust make sure our waterways are repaired and in a safe condition, but we also want them to be vibrant and at the centre of communities – alive with people, boats, wildlife and activity. Canals and rivers can define the character and personality of a village or town, something that explains its history and makes it special today. Waterways provide a unique environment and special places to visit – for recreation, relaxation and wellbeing. We know that using the waterways makes people's lives better. My role is to open the opportunities of the waterways to more young people – the wellbeing benefits of just being by the water and being active, the learning and leadership opportunities, the possibility of making meaningful contribution to society by volunteering, as well as in the longer term the career opportunities.

The Trust's youth engagement strategy, published in 2019 after widespread consultation with young people, is a promise to engage young people, from all walks of life, in the care and protection of our canals and rivers. We will listen to their voices and work together to create programmes that improve personal, community & environmental wellbeing. In November 2020 we signed up to the POWER of Youth Charter and made a series of pledges to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to young people. One of these is to work collaboratively with other organisations to create more high-quality opportunities, reach young people from low-



income and ethnic minority backgrounds to take part, share learning and achieve shared goals.

Working with organisations like the Danny helps us to deliver on our promise. The Danny offers a unique and welcoming environment and activities structured around the five ways to wellbeing and reaches out to disadvantaged young people through partnerships with local authorities and with networked organisations like Youth Federation. They have seen the wellbeing and confidence-building benefits on board the Danny of different kinds of engagement: artist-led activity with young people – taking notice of the environment and responding creatively, volunteer-led heritage and engineering learning, and young-person led giving back to the society through volunteering. We are able to amplify and round out those young people's experience, offering training and activities in keeping active on the waterways through canoeing and paddleboarding, learning about the environment through carbon literacy training and participation in the plastics challenge, and offering further ways for them to stay involved in the future through volunteering, youth forums, activities and career-focussed events. Bringing young people into the Danny community also creates a channel for them to engage with the Canal and River Trust, and gaining experience in both will help the young people to have an ever more important voice within our organisations in the future. After a period that has seen such dislocation and isolation within society, organisations like the Danny offer young people a supportive community to take the first step into a world of opportunity.

In June 2020 I was asked by the Honourable Company of Master Mariners to become a mentor to Mathew Cassidy. This is a voluntary service which the Honourable Company offers support, encouragement, advice and assistance to the mentees as they progress through the various stages of their career, starting as a Cadet and through to them obtaining their Master's Certificate.

Mathew is sponsored in a joint partnership with Trinity House and Seapeak (formerly Teekay Tankers LNG) and currently at Glasgow Nautical College where he is studying for his Officer of the Watch Certificate. His time at sea took him to the world's largest gas field - the Yamal Peninsular which lies northwest of Siberia. Natural gas was loaded into LNG tankers, which had ice breaker bows, for Shanghai. This voyage took him along the north Arctic coast and through the Bering Straits and onto Shanghai.

I finally got to meet Mathew aboard the Danny in early April of this year, where we talked about his Cadetship, ships he had sailed in and I suggested he did a trip on the Danny. I discussed this with the Honourable Company and needless to say they thought it would be fantastic and would he write an article about the trip.

**Captain Dave McNamee**

## Meeting the Mentor: New Experiences on a Historic Steam Vessel

Mathew Cassidy

This year's Easter Monday, I had the pleasure of experiencing first-hand the operation and management of a 1903 steam tug. The story of the Daniel Adamson was relayed to me, proudly, by her team — several volunteers from around the North West all of whom, as we were reminded in a pre-departure speech by the Captain (and my mentor) David McNamee, 'were there not because they have to be; but because they want to be.' The passion onboard was palpable, and I could not help but proudly take my place among them for the coming journey: a voyage down the Weaver Navigation from Acton Bridge to Sutton Weaver.

Built at the dawn of the Edwardian era in Birkenhead as the Ralph Brocklebank providing towage and tender services for her owners the Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Company. 1922 saw ownership change to the Manchester Ship Canal Company and in 1936, after receiving

a major refit including a change of name to Daniel Adamson, the father of the Ship Canal, she began a new life as a promotional vessel for the world's industrial VIPs. Her incredible Art Deco Saloon was designed to impress visitors into investing in Manchester while transiting its famous Ship Canal — where it continues to impress visitors to this day. However, after years of neglect, she was saved from scrapping in 2004 by Mersey tug skipper, Dan Cross, who paid just one pound for the historic craft! Years later, a dedicated team of volunteers and charitable investment have successfully transformed the Danny to her former glory. Today, she counts herself among the United Kingdom's National Historic Fleet, and boldly takes her place alongside such famous vessels as the HMS Victory and the Mary Rose. The Danny is the only vessel in the NHF premier league of 20 which remains operational.

During my time on board there were several things which struck me, particularly given my own experiences onboard LNG ships as a cadet with Seapeak. Chief amongst these was the necessity for teamwork on a vessel which relies on coal-fired propulsion and the quick thinking necessary to transit a narrow canal. In the wheelhouse I was impressed by



*Having come alongside successfully, my mentor Captain David McNamee and I pose for a quick photograph on the Danny's wheelhouse.*

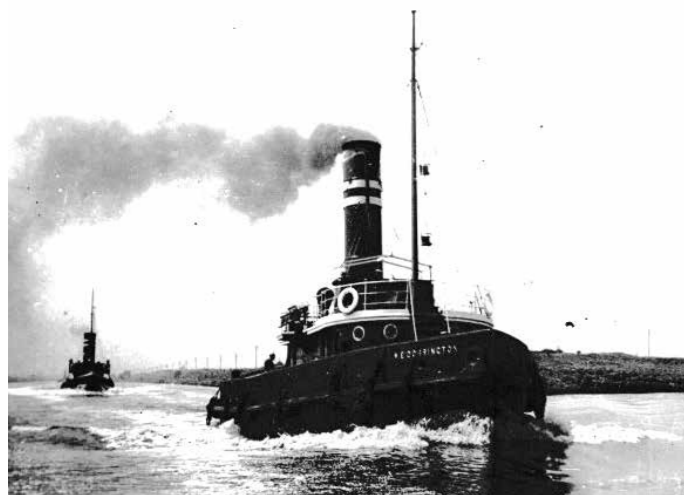
the communication between the bridge and boiler room, neither of which were able to rely on the automatic telegraphs and easy rudder response of modern ships. Coming alongside and entering locks is carried out without modern winches and thrusters; instead, lines are passed by hand and propellers are independently employed to ensure manoeuvring is smooth and seamless. The honed skills of old seafarers were fully recognisable. Finally, I was amazed by the steam-assisted helm and the unique reply of the rudder. Unlike modern ships, the wheel was unresponsive to small amounts of helm; and alongside the effects of squat and bank interaction, I learned much about

manoeuvrability and responsiveness of different vessels in different environments.

I am beyond impressed by the dedication demonstrated by old seafarers and volunteers alike, who go out of their way to keep the nation's maritime history alive. I thank them and my mentor for allowing and encouraging this interaction between the old and the new, and I am in no doubt about the usefulness of this novel experience in my career as a Deck Officer going forward. Lastly, I thank the Honourable Company of Master Mariners' mentoring scheme for providing the support, assistance, and advice I received in this, my first interaction with an experienced master and mentor.

## The W.E. Dorrington Bell

Colin Leonard



Preston area till 1976 when his parents moved from a farm in Lancashire to one in Devon. It remained there for the next 45 years.

It was decided to bring it up to give it a new home on the Danny which meant that this cruise was the first time it had sailed down the Manchester Ship Canal and Mersey since going to the breakers in Preston in 1937.

The family said it was a privilege for his family to see it mounted on The Danny.

The Danny's other sister tug The Lord Stalbridge was sold in 1946 to W.J. Guy of Cardiff and renamed 'THE ROSE' and was scrapped at Briton Ferry in 1959.

On 16th April 2022 John Kenyon and his wife Geraldine and John's son, John and his wife Tracey joined us on the Danny for a cruise down the Manchester Ship Canal and across the River Mersey to Garston Docks, and then down the river before returning back to Ellesmere Port after an enjoyable 6 hour Cruise.

Whilst on board they took the opportunity to present the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society with the bell from the W E Dorrington which together with the Lord Stalbridge was the Danny's sister tugs.

The bell was originally in the possession of John C Fairchild who was John Kenyon Jr's great grandfather. John C Fairchild was working as Borough Engineer/Transport Manager/Electricity Undertaking Manager in Lytham St Annes.

In 1937 it was decided to scrap the tram system in Lytham which coincided at the same time as the the W.E.Dorrington was getting broken up nearby in Preston. He speculates that the bell was a gift from a scrap man who was angling for business. Ultimately the work that the scrapman was after, was carried out by a different scrap dealer.

When his Great Grandfather died in 1959 John's father emptied his house and the bell was one of the things that was saved. It stayed in the



## MAY PICTURE QUIZ QUESTION



**Name the Ship in this month's Towline Photo Quiz, that was taken approaching Eastham**

If you think you know the answer contact Colin on [colin.leonard@danieladamson.co.uk](mailto:colin.leonard@danieladamson.co.uk) and the winner can choose a gift from our Merchandise range

**ANSWER** to the picture quiz in last TOWLINE

The October Towline Mystery Ships was correctly identified as the "Thermopylae" by member Nigel Bowker who received a Danny Mug.

The history of the Thermopylae is below

Built 1955 as SLEMDAL

Sold 1961 renamed FOSSLAND

Sold 1963 renamed ANINA

Sold 1977 renamed SALAMIS

Sold 1977 renamed THERMOPYLAE

Scrapped Aliaga 1987

## 2022 CRUISES



## APRIL

**FRI 15** **GOOD FRIDAY**  
Liverpool Canning Dock – 10:00-14:00 £65  
Ellesmere Port **The Shropshire Union**

**SAT 16** Ellesmere Port – Garston & Return 09:30-16:00 £65  
**The Lord Stalbridge**

**SUN 17** Ellesmere Port – Acton Bridge 11:00-16:00 £60

**MON 18** **EASTER MONDAY**  
Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver 12:00-14:30 £40

## MAY

**THU 5** Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge 13:00-15:30 £40

**SUN 8** Anderton Boat Lift – 12:00-16:00 £47  
Sutton Weaver

**FRI 27** Sutton Weaver – 13:00-17:00 £47  
Anderton Boat Lift

**SAT 28** Anderton Boat Lift – 12:00-16:00 £47  
Sutton Weaver

**SUN 29** **NANTWICH GIN CRUISE**  
Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge 12:00-15:30 £47  
via Marsh Lock

## JUNE

**FRI 17** Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge 17:30-21:00 £45  
via Marsh Lock

**SAT 18** **NANTWICH GIN CRUISE**  
Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver 16:00-19:30 £47  
via Marsh Lock

**SUN 19** Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge 12:00-14:30 £40

**FATHERS DAY****CHAPTER BREWERY CRAFT BEER CRUISE**

Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver 16:00-19:30 £50  
via Marsh Lock

**FRI 24** Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver 14:00-17:30 £45  
via Marsh Lock

**SAT 25** **NOMAD CHEESE & WINE CRUISE**  
Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge 14:00-16:30 £45  
Acton Bridge – Sutton Weaver 18:00-21:30 £50  
via Marsh Lock

## JULY

**FRI 8** Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge 12:00-14:30 £40

**SAT 9** Anderton Boat Lift – 11:00-17:00 £70  
Ellesmere Port

**SUN 10** Ellesmere Port – 11:00-17:00 £70  
Anderton Boat Lift

**MON 11** Anderton Boat Lift – 12:00-16:00 £47  
Sutton Weaver

## AUGUST

**FRI 5** Sutton Weaver – 12:00-16:00 £47  
Anderton Boat Lift

**SAT 6** **NANTWICH GIN CRUISE**  
Anderton Boat Lift – Anderton 12:00-15:30 £42  
Boat Lift via Acton Bridge

**NANTWICH GIN CRUISE**

Anderton Boat Lift – Anderton 17:00-20:30 £42  
Boat Lift via Acton Bridge

**SUN 7** Anderton Boat Lift – 11:00-16:00 £55  
Sutton Weaver via Marsh lock

**FRI 26** Sutton Weaver – 12:00-16:00 £47  
Anderton Boat Lift

**SAT 27** Anderton Boat Lift – 11:00-17:00 £70  
Ellesmere Port

**SUN 28** Ellesmere Port – Canning Dock 09:00-12:30 £65  
**The Shropshire Union**

**MON 29** **BANK HOLIDAY**  
Liverpool Canning Dock – 12:30-17:00 £75  
Sutton Weaver **The Mersey-Weaver**

## SEPTEMBER

**SAT 17** **NOMAD CHEESE & WINE CRUISE**  
Sutton Weaver – 12:00-16:00 £52  
Anderton Boat Lift

**SUN 18** **NANTWICH GIN CRUISE**  
Anderton Boat Lift – 12:00-16:00 £49  
Sutton Weaver

**FRI 30** **NANTWICH GIN CRUISE**  
Sutton Weaver – Acton Bridge 12:00-15:30 £47  
via Marsh Lock

## OCTOBER

**SAT 8** Ellesmere Port – 10:00-16:00 £70  
Anderton Boat Lift

**SUN 9** **NANTWICH GIN CRUISE**  
Anderton Boat Lift – 12:00-16:00 £49  
Sutton Weaver

## NEW OFFER

A Davenport's Tea Room picnic box for two people on selected cruises **£40**