

31 January 2005

### **Finalists announced for The Waterways Renaissance Awards 2005**

The Waterways Trust and the British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) are pleased to announce the finalists for The Waterways Renaissance Awards 2005. The Waterways Renaissance Awards aim to recognise and encourage best practice in sustainable waterway regeneration and development throughout the UK.

The winners will be announced at a prestigious Awards Ceremony & Dinner to take place at Madame Tussauds, London, on Wednesday 16 March. The event will be hosted by the television presenter and Vice President of The Waterways Trust John Craven OBE. The Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, the Waterways Minister, will be the guest speaker.

The finalists for The Waterways Renaissance Awards 2005 are:

Natural Environment - sponsored by English Nature  
Fradley Pool Nature Reserve, nr. Burton-upon-Trent, West Midlands  
River Rubbish Roundup, Tonbridge, Kent

Area-Based Regeneration - sponsored by Land and Water Group  
Islington Gates, Fleet Street, Birmingham  
Manchester Waterways Strategy  
The Oracle Shopping Centre, Reading

Community - sponsored by Defra  
London Narrow Boat Project, Braunston, Northamptonshire  
Trevor Basin Waterside Regeneration, Wrexham  
The Willow Trust, Gloucester

Design and Construction - sponsored by ISIS Waterside Regeneration  
Clarence Dock, Leeds  
Islington Gates, Fleet Street, Birmingham  
The Oracle Shopping Centre, Reading Sowerby Bridge Wharf Warehouse  
Refurbishment, Halifax

Education and Learning - sponsored by Regeneration and Renewal Canals Then & Now, Portland Basin Museum, Ashton-under-Lyne River Rubbish Roundup, Tonbridge, Kent

Historic Environment - sponsored by English Heritage Brockmoor Bridge, Stourbridge Canal, Dudley Dundas Aqueduct Refurbishment, Limpley Stoke, Bath Hayhurst Swing Bridge Refurbishment, Northwich, Cheshire Sowerby Bridge Wharf Warehouse Refurbishment, Halifax

Recreation and Tourism - sponsored by ARUP Cross-Scotland Holiday Cruises, between Edinburgh and Glasgow

Special Award for Excellence in Partnership - sponsored by Morrison All finalists will be considered for this Award

John Craven OBE, Presenter of BBC1's Countryfile, said: "Up and down the country, our inland waterways are being brought back to life and flourishing in a way not seen for over two centuries. This is bringing huge benefits to people in terms of enjoyment, education and economic prosperity. The benefits to the natural environment are also considerable as the renewal of our canals and rivers provides new habitats for wildlife and corridors for their expansion.

In recognising best practice in waterway regeneration, The Waterways Renaissance Awards are encouraging others to emulate the excellence of the projects that have made it to the finals. I wish all the finalists of the 2005 Awards the very best of luck and look forward to meeting them on 16 March."

The nominations were judged by an independent assessment panel, comprising waterway, conservation and regeneration experts and chaired by Roger Hanbury, Chief Executive of The Waterways Trust.

Roger Hanbury said: "The Waterways Renaissance Awards are now well established and, judging by the standard of the entries this year, waterway regeneration is continuing apace. The judging panel has had a good field of candidates to consider and we have been impressed by the high quality of the entries.

Whoever the winners are on the night, these finalists can be justly proud of the contribution they have made to the renaissance of our waterways in improving the quality of life for people and local communities."

Tables are available for the Awards Ceremony & Dinner. Companies wishing to attend should apply to the address below for further details:

Tricia Greenwood  
The Waterways Trust  
Llanthony Warehouse  
The Docks  
Gloucester GL1 2EH  
Tel: 01452 318220  
Email: [Tricia.Greenwood@thewaterwaystrust.org](mailto:Tricia.Greenwood@thewaterwaystrust.org)