

REVIVAL

The Millennium Link

Following closure on 1st January 1963 the canal was neglected and became derelict. From the early 1970s volunteers worked tirelessly to promote the conservation and restoration of the canal. Voluntary groups became involved in clean up campaigns, rallies, barge trips and galas. They campaigned to persuade the government of the value of opening the canal as a leisure facility. In 1988 British Waterways announced an ambitious project to restore the 12 mile length from Temple to Port Dundas and to Kirkintilloch. This project signalled the modern day revival of the canal. Eventually funds were obtained from the National Lottery's Millennium Commission to enable British Waterways to reopen the Canal as The Millennium Link.



Reopening of Townhead Bridge, Kirkintilloch, 2000



Kirkintilloch-Bishopbriggs reopening, 2000



Canal reopening Auchenstary, 2001



Canal reopening Twechar, 2001

The Seagull Trust

The Seagull Trust is a charity that provides free canal cruising for disabled people. The Yarrow Seagull was built by the apprentice training school of British Shipbuilders at Yarrow for the Seagull Trust in 1984. The Trust also built a boat house and dry dock in Kirkintilloch near Townhead Bridge to protect and maintain the vessel.



Seagull Trust boat 'Marjorie Seagull', Kirkintilloch

Reopening of the Canal

The first re-opened section of canal to be celebrated was from Kirkintilloch to Bishopbriggs. On 21st May 2000 a fleet of vessels sailed through the new Townhead Bridge.



Forth and Clyde Canal Society boat 'Voyager', Kirkintilloch

The Forth and Clyde Canal Society

The Forth and Clyde Canal Society was formed in 1980 to campaign for the restoration and use of the canal as an amenity. The first passenger boat was introduced in 1981. Currently the Society operates 3 passenger vessels carrying 10,000 passengers a year. The dedicated volunteers provide water safety and history trips to around 2,000 school children, participate in gala and other community events, organise themed and private parties and run boat trips on a Saturday during the summer months.



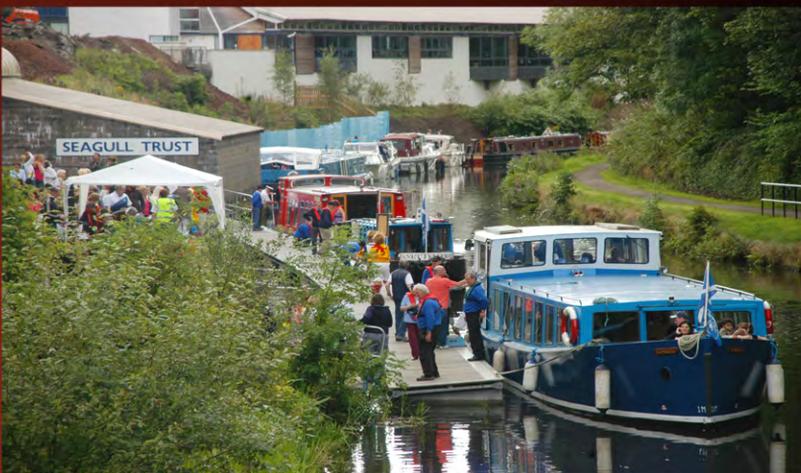
Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch



New footbridge in Kirkintilloch. Section lowered into position, 2008



Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch, view looking towards the canal



Kirkintilloch Canal Festival, an annual event reflecting the revival of the canal