

## **Mon and Brec Canal - New Manager for the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre**

The popular Fourteen Locks Canal Centre on the Mon & Brec canal has appointed a new Manager. The Centre, which is run by the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust (MBACT), is situated on the unnavigable Crumlin Arm branch of the canal in Rogerstone, Newport. MBACT runs the Centre as a museum, cafe and community centre and as an information hub for the canal and MBACT's restoration activities. The centre is also used for school educational activities.

The new manager is Laura Thomas. Laura is well known on the canal and has her own boat on the canal moored at Llangattock. Laura has previously worked as a manager for the Big Issue and also in the Care sector.

Laura said: "I'm passionate about the Mon and Brec canal and am delighted to take on this new role. I'm really looking forward to helping visitors experience this beautiful local resource and assist MBACT in promoting its work and its aim of restoring the southern part of the Monmouthshire Canal."

### ***About the Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust (MBACT)***

*We are a local South-East-Wales based registered charity, run by volunteers, which campaigns and works to improve and sustainably restore the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal for the benefit of our local community.*

*Along with campaigning for restoration, we undertake on-the-ground works and run a successful interpretation centre at Fourteen Locks, Newport, where we have run an "Education through Restoration" project with 60 local schools in partnership with Newport City Council. We work in partnership with the canal owners, Glandwr Cymru, the Canal and Rivers Trust in Wales, Torfaen County Borough Council, Newport City Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council. Whilst our main base is at Fourteen Locks, we operate two eco-friendly electrically driven Community Boats at Goytre Wharf Llanover, a beautiful location within the Brecon Beacons National Park.*

*The canal is a 200-year old historical, leisure and economic resource, running from Brecon to Newport. About 35 miles at its northern end is navigable and a popular tourist attraction, with the remaining 5 miles from Cwmbran to Newport, and 4 miles from Newport to Cwmcarn, left to be restored. The unrestored section is well placed to serve the local urban communities of Cwmbran, Newport and Risca.*