

# AINA CASE STUDY

## TOURISM AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Moira Canal Festival



*Visitors enjoy the waterside attractions at Moira's annual Canal Festival*

#### ***Annual canal festival supports important maintenance and restoration work***

The Ashby Canal Trust was formed in 2000 to help pursue the eventual restoration of the whole canal and, as part of its partnership work to broaden the appeal of the waterway, has regularly hosted the Moira Canal Festival each May on the newly restored length at Moira. In 2000 only a short stretch was open, but over the next few years the canal was extended with construction of a lock, a swing bridge and road bridge to extend the navigation from through to the popular Conkers waterside park.

The Festival is normally held at Moira Furnace, a Napoleonic blast furnace and one of the best-preserved blast furnaces in Europe, now in the heart of the developing National Forest. Organisers have always aimed for variety to encourage as many people as possible to enjoy the waterway. Activities include historic re-enactments such as the Sealed Knot, Redcoats, Victorian Marines and Second World War activities. Spitfire fly-pasts have even taken place and a mountain bike jump over the canal is planned for 2012. Family activities include crafts for children, musical performances, live steam, classic cars, canoeing and boat trips. A wide choice of refreshments is always available.

The Festival committee say that the two day event aims to encourage people to use the Ashby Canal corridor, raise funds towards restoration and maintenance, educate the public in the history of the canal and remind them that there is still much work to be done before full restoration is completed. Local dignitaries are invited to join visitors, and the Chairman and Consort of Leicestershire County Council and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Ashby Woulds Council support the festival and express their support for the efforts being made to fully re-open the canal.

All proceeds go towards maintaining the Ashby Canal and contributing to the restoration which is now continuing at Snarestone.

Further information: [www.moiracanalfestival.co.uk](http://www.moiracanalfestival.co.uk)