

MONTGOMERY GOES INTERNATIONAL!

Early in 2018, the Shropshire Union Canal Society (one of the charities organising this Appeal) was approached about providing a speaker to give an Address to the 41st Annual Course by the Architects' Association of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain about the Montgomery Canal. The Course this year was going to have a focus on historic waterways – which in Spain means looking rather more at Roman and other water aqueducts to bring water from the hills to the cities. The Society approached John Dodwell (chair of the Montgomery Canal Partnership) to see if he could give the Address – which he could.

So it was that the history of the Montgomery Canal – how it started and then declined – and its subsequent revival and the part played by the Society from the 1960s onwards became a major part of the Course last December. Another feature was an address by CRT's Heritage Advisor Kate Lynch about two magnificent examples of canal engineering – Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Anderton Boat Lift.

The Montgomery Address showed many photographs, including pictures of areas worked on by the volunteers including, Frankton Locks, Carreghofa Locks, Welshpool and, of course, relining the Canal between Redwith Bridge to Pryces Bridge and beyond. The closing remarks were:

“I hope I have been able to show you something about the heritage and history of the Montgomery Canal – a wonderful survivor of Britain's Industrial Revolution – and how it is being revived. I hope I have been able to show you the value of working in Partnership. And I hope I've been able to show you the value of volunteers – how inspirational they can be. Because, please remember, to them – Nothing is Impossible!”

The Architects Association agreed to pay a fee of €160 – which has been donated to the Restore the Montgomery! Appeal fund”