



## **'MY FUTURE'S IN FALKIRK' NAMED AS SCOTTISH BOAT SHOW AND OUTDOOR LEISURE FESTIVAL'S MAIN SPONSOR**

**15 May 2006** - The My Future's in Falkirk regeneration initiative has been confirmed as the main sponsor for this year's Scottish Boat Show and Outdoor Leisure Festival.

The three day event, which takes place at The Falkirk Wheel from May 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, is expected to bring thousands of visitors to the Falkirk area from across the UK and is the second time that the My Future's in Falkirk regeneration initiative has been a key sponsor.

And whilst this year's exciting event will still be focused on encouraging people to take up water based activities, a new dimension has been added. More opportunities to explore land based outdoor activities will be on show too with visitors being encouraged to explore the canals' towpaths and surrounding areas too.

Ed Marnie, Acting Executive Director at Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley said: "The Falkirk area has seen a huge influx of visitors in recent years and the Scottish Boat Show and Outdoor Leisure Festival looks set to increase the leisure and tourism appeal of the area even more.

"The innovative 'My Future's in Falkirk' regeneration initiative is delighted to provide its support to an event that is likely to attract huge crowds and allow thousands of visitors to experience Falkirk and the surrounding area first hand."

Another exciting benefit for the town of Falkirk this year will see the show extended into the town with the first boat service to take train passengers from Glasgow and Edinburgh set sail direct from Falkirk High Station to The Falkirk Wheel site.

A regular boat service will also run from the Union Inn, Lock 16, in Camelon and short canal trips will be available throughout the festival on both the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals.

Ronnie Simpson, Event Director and Leisure Development Manager at show organisers, British Waterways Scotland, said: "More and more people are using Scotland's inland waterways and the three day event will highlight the full range of boating and leisure opportunities they provide. Hopefully it will inspire even more people to return to the canals and towpaths."

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And, amongst many other activities, visitors to the show can step back in time and learn about the Falkirk area and in particular the Antonine Wall from someone who actually helped build it – a guard from the Roman Legion, Legio VI Victrix Pia Fidelis which constructed the wall in 139 AD!

Guided cycle tours of the Union Canal towpath will also be run throughout the event.

Ronnie Simpson said: “With so many activities on offer at this year’s festival there is definitely going to be something for everyone. Set against the stunning Falkirk Wheel the show is an unmissable day out for all the family.”

Admission to The Scottish Boat Show and Outdoor Leisure Festival is £3 for adults with free entry for accompanied children under 16.

Further information on the whole event can be found at [www.thescottishboatshow.co.uk](http://www.thescottishboatshow.co.uk)

**ENDS**

**Issued on behalf of My Future’s in Falkirk by Wave PR. For further information please contact Jonathan Kennedy on 0141-303-8390 or 07799-768968**

#### Notes

- Advanced booking is strongly recommended for passenger boat trips to the festival. To book your seats in advance call The Falkirk Wheel booking line on 01324 619888.

#### My Future’s in Falkirk

- Is an innovative 10 year regeneration initiative which has started to create up to 4250 jobs, stimulate up to £200m of additional investment, attract a diverse range of businesses to the area and generate up to £50m a year for the Falkirk economy. It will transform Falkirk and the surrounding area into a thriving, diverse modern economy that attracts businesses and visitors into the area and provides jobs for local people.
- Projects within My Future’s In Falkirk fall into four key themes; developing new technologies, creating capacity for business growth, exploiting physical and digital connections to the world and living, working and visiting Falkirk.
- The £23m initiative (originally referred to as the Falkirk Action Plan) was launched in December 2002 by a partnership of Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, BP and Falkirk Council with support from the European Regional Development Fund.