

# Bold Beginnings

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Canal Laureate for the Canal & River Trust

**B**old beginnings: the first new waterway in a century is growing  
**E**ast to West, from the Great Ouse to the Grand Union Canal.  
**D**oorway to the Fens, a silver link between old and new towns,  
**F**lowing from lake to lake, freely and forever. At Stewartby  
**O**ld brick pits fill with gleaming waters; soon visitors will watch vessels  
**R**ise sky-high on a mighty boat lift at Brogborough Hill.  
**D**iggers make culverts under highways, cranes build bridges over byways -

**M**ilton Keynes to Marston Vale and all the way to Bedford.  
**I**nhabitants of new homes will find inspiration here:  
**L**ife in the waterway park. Hidden behind hedgerows  
**T**his green space is just the place to spot birds, cast a spinning rod  
**O**r sit on a bench with friends and watch the world go by.  
**N**o need for tarmac and train tracks: commuters can

**K**ayak or cycle to work, tracing a new blue line over the map -  
**E**very day the journey will be different. Summer and winter,  
**Y**ear-in, year-out, colourful craft cast reflections on the water.  
**N**arrowboats glide by - gardens on the roof, pets in the galley.  
**E**arly morning on the Embankment, rowers train for gold:  
**S**ome setting out, and others making a safe arrival.

The Canal Laureate project is a collaboration between The Poetry Society and the Canal & River Trust, part of the Arts on the Waterways programme supported by Arts Council England and the Arts Council of Wales. For more details, visit [waterlines.org.uk](http://waterlines.org.uk) and [poetrysociety.org.uk](http://poetrysociety.org.uk)