

Crofton Beam Engines
Crofton, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 3DW
Tel: 01672 870300
A branch of The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust
Registered Charity No. CC209206
VAT No. 357 4551 36

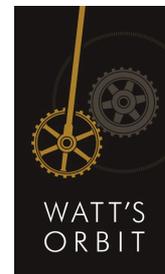


Event Notice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Watt's Orbit

Bringing History to Life Through Sound
A Transcendental Tribute to James Watt



Watt's Orbit is an immersive surround sound performance created by sonic artist Bobby Bird, using location recordings of engines designed by Scottish engineer and inventor James Watt, whose development of steam power helped spark the industrial revolution.

A performance of the composition will be given at **St Mary's Church Great Bedwyn, Wiltshire on 23d September 2017. Doors open at 7pm, with the performance 7.30-8.30pm.** The date and location has been chosen to coincide with the last steaming weekend of the year at nearby Crofton Beam Engines, where the 200 year old Boulton & Watt engine featured in the composition can be viewed before the concert. Crofton's engine house, bar & cafe will remain open between 5-7pm especially for concert ticket holders. **Tickets: £10 each. Available from www.wattsorbit.org or onsite at Crofton.**

About the artist: Bobby Bird was born in Handsworth Birmingham. He grew up with a fascination for both engines and sound, rebuilding BSAs, releasing albums as Higher Intelligence Agency and creating sound installations. He first saw a Boulton and Watt Engine in the former Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry, which he visited regularly throughout his teenage years. With Watt's Bicentenary approaching in 2019, an idea which he had conceived of many years previously, came to fruition with an inaugural performance of Watt's Orbit in James Watt's final resting place, St Mary's Handsworth, in September 2016. The performance in Great Bedwyn will be the second performance of Watts Orbit, with further performances planned for 2019.

Audience quotes :

'Like the film 'Fantastic Voyage' - but through a steam engine" -

Patrick Faulkner Lecturer South Birmingham College

Mesmeric experience - the ghosts have been released from the machine -

Rebeka Tolley - Film Director Coventry

An industrial sound bathing roller coaster -

Soesen Edan, Sound Therapist Birmingham

ENDS

For more information please contact Scylla Magda : info@wattsorbit.org Tel 07905 755150

Note to Editors: Further information, artist biography and photos can be viewed at www.wattsorbit.org

About Crofton: Crofton Beam Engines is situated on the north side of the Kennet and Avon Canal near to its highest point. It was built to pump water to the highest level of the canal some 13m (40') higher and 1.13Km (0.7miles) to the west. It is home to two magnificent steam driven beam engines one of which can claim to be the oldest in the world still in its original location and doing the job it was installed for in 1812. Crofton Beam Engines is a Grade 1 listed site. It is also a branch of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust who operate the site through an enthusiastic band of volunteers all of whom are keen to provide visitors with a memorable experience.

Web: <http://www.croftonbeamengines.org/>