September 2015 London Volunteering Update from Canal & River Trust

Hello and welcome to the September volunteering bulletin for the London Waterway

It’s another busy month in London with events taking place across the network so don’t let the autumnal weather put you off, just remember to layer up and whatever you do, definitely don’t forget the waterproofs!

September Towpath Taskforce Events

If you’ve got a few hours to spare and would like to help improve your waterway then why not come along to one of our Towpath Taskforce volunteer events? This month we’ll be out and about across the network painting, tidying, clearing and cleaning our canals and rivers for everyone to enjoy. More information on each of our September events, plus details of October’s events can be found on the London Towpath Taskforce webpage. All tools, equipment and instruction will be supplied. Please wear old clothes appropriate to the weather forecast and hard-soled footwear.

• Saturday 5 September, 10am – 3.30pm - Vegetation cutback and litter from Tottenham to Stonebridge on the River Lee. Meet us on the towpath by Tottenham Lock, Ferry Lane, N17 9NE. Nearest station Tottenham Hale.
• Tuesday 15 September, 10am – 3.30pm – Litter pick on the Grand Union from Norwood Top Lock (Lock 90) to Bulls Bridge Junction. Meet us on the towpath by Lock 90, off Havelock Road, UB2 4PL. Nearest station Southall.
• Thursday 17 September, 10am – 3.30pm – Bridge painting at Dobb’s Weir on the River Lee. Meet us by Dobb’s Weir Lock, near Dobb’s Weir Road, EN11 0BL. Nearest station Enfield Lock.
• Saturday 19 September, 10am – 3.30pm – Canal Clean Up on the Regent’s Canal at Camden. Meet on the towpath opposite the Pirate Castle, off Oval Road, NW1 7BF. Nearest station Camden Town.
• Saturday 3 October, 10am – 3.30pm – Buddleia Blitz at Mile End on the Regent’s Canal. Meet us by Mile End Lock, off Whitman Road, E3 4RB. Nearest station Mile End.

Farewell to Becky Williams

This month we’re sadly saying farewell to our London Volunteer Team Leader, Becky Williams, who recently left the Trust to pursue a new post with a London Housing Association. Many of you will know that Becky has been with the Trust for almost 5 years and has done a fantastic job in growing and developing volunteering in London. Becky’s last day was Friday 28 August but if you would like to write to her please do send any messages to me (Deborah.vidler@canalrivertrust.org.uk) and I will pass them on. We will be recruiting for a new Volunteer Team Leader in the coming weeks, if you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more about the post please do keep an eye on our job vacancies page.
Waterway Themed Events for September
If you’re looking for something to keep yourself or your family entertained this month, why not head along to one of these great waterway related events taking place in London:

- **Sunday 6 September** – Angel Canal Festival. Stalls, children’s entertainment, live music and art by City Road Lock on the Regent’s Canal. For more information visit the [Angel Canal Festival website](#).
- **Saturday 13 September** - Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September – [Slough Canal Festival](#), Bloom Park, Langley. Organised by Slough Borough Council, family friendly activities by the beautiful Slough Arm.
- **Sunday 27 September** - Free ‘Discover the Regent’s Canal’ guided heritage walk with Volunteer Towpath Ranger Richard Higginbottom. Meet at 10am outside Angel underground station to explore the fascinating history of the Regent’s Canal from Islington to Camden.

Little Venice Welcome Station – volunteers needed
Some of you will already be aware of the fantastic work of the Little Venice Welcome Station team, who open the Toll House at Little Venice at the weekend to welcome visitors, assist boaters and help look after the local area. We are now looking for more people to join the team to assist with opening the Welcome Station on Saturdays and/or Sundays. More information can be found [here](#) on our website and if you’re interested in getting involved please email me – Deborah.vidler@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Brentford Archiving Project
We’re currently looking for volunteers to join a small archiving team based at the Canal & River Trust office at Brentford. The Canal & River Trust holds a huge variety of historical documents related to the development of our canals and surrounding land. The volunteer archive team are reviewing and recording details of the contents of these documents ahead of them being archived. We are looking for a small number of volunteers to join the team, ideally on Tuesdays between October and March. If you are interested in finding out more we will be holding a ‘meet & greet’ at the Brentford office on Tuesday 29 September. For more information please email me – Deborah.vidler@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Autumn 2015 London Waterways Forum
On 14 October 2015, Jon Guest, the manager of the London waterway, will be hosting the latest in our series of evening forums. This is a chance for boaters, residents, walkers, anglers, cyclists, volunteers and businesspeople to come together and discuss issues with each other and with the Trust’s staff, and to learn more about plans for the future. The next forum is from 7pm to 9pm on Wednesday 14 October at the London Canal Museum, 12-13 New Wharf Road, London, N1 9RT. **Places are limited.** If you’d like to reserve your place at this October’s event, please email enquiries.london@canalrivertrust.org.uk

September Volunteer Events
A number of our partner groups are in action this month at locations across London. They’re always keen for extra pairs of hands so please do pop along if you can and meet fellow volunteers with a passion for their local waterway!

- **Sunday 6 September** - Friends of Slough Canal monthly mini clean up, this month at Bloom Park – see the [Friends of Slough Canal Facebook Page](#) for more information
- **Sunday 6 September**, Hillingdon Narrowboats Association monthly volunteer day – visit the [HNA website](#) for more information.
- **Saturday 19 September**, 10am – 12pm followed by a BBQ – Friends of Brent Reservoir Clean Up. Meet 10am at the Phoenix Canoe club, off Cool Oak Lane, approximate postcode NW9 7ND, for a walking litter
pick around the North West Marsh. Contact me (Deborah.vidler@canalrivertrust.org.uk) for more information.

- Saturday 26 September – Greenford and Perivale Canal Clean Up – see the Greenford Delta Facebook Page for more information.
- Wednesday 30 August - Lower Regent’s Coalition and Moo Canoes floating litter pick from Limehouse – see the Lower Regent’s Coalition Facebook Page for more information.

And finally...canals on the telly!
In case you missed it, the BBC have recently been screening a fascinating new series ‘Canals: The Making of a Nation’ looking at the history of our canals, the people who built them and the impact they had and still have today. Information on the series, including all six episodes in full can be found here on the BBC website, they’re well worth a watch. Keep an eye out for our London Heritage Advisor, Florence Salberter, who makes a star appearance in episode three looking at the impact of canals on modern day capitalism.

Thank you for volunteering with the Canal & River Trust. We look forward to seeing you out on the waterways soon!

Best wishes
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