



PRESS RELEASE

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CANOE VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP COVENTRY CANAL

The charity that cares for the Coventry Canal is calling for visitors to take more pride in their local waterways after volunteers from a local canoe club cleared a bumper amount of litter.

The Canal & River Trust is making the appeal after a team from Anker Valley Canoe Club, which is based at Hartshill, filled three open canoes - over 15 bags -with rubbish removed from the water during their annual clean up that took place on Saturday 16th April. Amongst the haul was a large amount of plastic bottles which can cause problems for wildlife.

Anker Valley Canoe Club is affiliated to British Canoeing and its members, aged from 7 to 70, use the canal regularly for recreation and training. The club has been using this section of the canal since the 1980's with members of the club selected to represent Great Britain over the years.

Each spring members of the club paddle along a two mile stretch of the canal between Hartshill and Nuneaton to remove litter which has found its way into the canal.

Simon Ricketts from the Anker Valley Canoe Club said; "This year there seemed to be much more litter than in previous years which is really sad.

"As regular users of the canal we want to make sure that we play our part in maintaining its upkeep and natural beauty by giving some time to help remove the litter. People need to realise that the canal is an asset for everyone and that by carelessly dumping their rubbish they're spoiling it for everyone else."

Andrew Morris, customer operations manager for the Canal & River Trust, said; "The volunteers from the canoe club have done a brilliant job and their efforts have made a real difference to the canal.

It's a great example of local people getting actively involved in caring for their local waterways and making things better for everybody.

"Unfortunately a minority of people think that it's ok to selfishly dump their rubbish and we're really grateful to the volunteers for pitching in and clearing it up but ultimately it shouldn't come to that. People should take responsibility for their rubbish and not leave it for someone else to clean up their mess."

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To find out more about the Coventry Canal including events, activities and volunteering opportunities go to www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

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Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms