



North Wales & Borders Volunteering Newsletter January 2016

A big thank you to everyone that turned up for the Thank You event at Anderton Boat Lift on Wednesday 13th January, it was a good turnout and a great opportunity to put some faces to names. Apologies to those of you who may not have received the details, I will endeavour to make sure I include everyone on the mail out next time.



35 of you managed to attend the event and hopefully enjoyed it along with the buffet provided by the staff and volunteers at Anderton Boat Lift.

As part of the event we were pleased to hand out a few of the new Badges of Recognition for Volunteers, these consist of a Bronze badge for volunteers who have carried out over 500hours, a Silver badge for over 1000hours and a Gold badge for any volunteer that has achieved over 2000hours.

On the day we were able to hand out 3 Silver and 3 Bronze pin badges but we have many more for people that didn't attend the event. We realise that the list may not include everyone that has completed these hours, but we are currently inputting individual hours against each person's records, so please bear with us.

Once again **Thank You** for all your contributions, without which we would not be able to achieve what we do.

Thank you for your time.....

We currently have more badges and mugs to give out, and I will be contacting the recipients shortly to arrange for a presentation of these.

We currently have 1 Gold, 7 Silver and 13 Bronze recipients, this equates to a total of over 21,500 lifetime hours being recorded individually for these 21 recipients.

We also have over 50 recipients of a mug, for over 100hours, on our records and we will endeavour to make sure we get these out as soon as we can. For your hours to be recorded individually you need to have filled out an L1 or L2 registration form and this needs to have been entered on ThankQ.

If you have not filled out an L1 or L2 registration form please contact us.



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Volunteer Lock Keeping 2016

Last year we had a tremendous response to the adverts for Volunteer Lock Keepers and managed to guide a number of these through the volunteer recruitment process and put in place

27 volunteer lock keepers

at locations such as

**Audlem, Hurleston, Grindley Brook,
Cholmondeston, Frankton, Northgate,
Bunbury, Tyrley and Vale Royal Locks**

and between them they managed to deliver around

4,500 hours

This was a fabulous contribution which we hope to build on in 2016.

The initial application process for 2016 finished on 29th January, and we are now sifting through the initial **36** applications as we speak. In due time we will be contacting all of last year's Volunteer Lock Keepers (VLK's) with details for this year's recruitment and training as well as any new volunteers we have introduced.

As well as our dedicated team of VLK's we also began training some of our general volunteers to carry out lock keeping duties to cover some of the events that went on around the waterway and we will be picking up and continuing their training this year.

A glowing tribute to the VLK's at Audlem....

"They're always willing to help boaters come rain, hail or shine. Their friendly attitude and offer of assistance is noted not only by local boaters, but those from afar..... Even during the cold and wet days of winter, we still get a friendly nod from these tireless people and appreciate their dedication to maintaining what is 'our local road' through the village. They are always welcome to a warm cup of tea whenever they get time for a break. They are a very welcome and worthwhile asset to our locality, their absence would be sorely missed!"

A Resident Boater





Virtual Youth Forum

Can You Help?

Do you have contact with any young people that would be interested in joining FUSION; the new Virtual Youth Forum for the Canal and River Trust across the North Wales & Borders area? (Well, that's the working name for now!) We cover Wrexham, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, and Powys & Denbighshire.

As an organisation we would like young people to help and advise us on issues that we deal with on a daily basis but affect young people such as "What would an angling club need to do to recruit more young people to join their club?" or "If we did a wildlife photography project in Shropshire, what's the best way to let young people know it's on?".

The average age of a member of staff within CRT is 46 and the average age of a volunteer is a lot older....so having the voice of young people to help us ensure that the canals and rivers are enjoyed by everyone is vital.

How it will work:

Young people would register as a volunteer with us as a forum member. Due to us covering 240 miles, FUSION will be a *Virtual Youth Forum* where we contact forum members electronically for advice, to consult and to inform. The numbers of young people that can join the virtual youth forum is limitless, but to help us set it up initially, we would like to invite interested young people to attend an event with us in Chester on **Saturday 12th March** to start the forum off by agreeing how it will work in practice i.e.

- What is the best way to communicate with the forum members?
- Should Fusion have a private Facebook page to share information?
- Should we invite all forum members to a review in 6months time to see if it is working and if so, are there any changes needed?

It will be a fun, light-hearted day with lunch and expenses held in the middle of Chester (5 mins from the canal).

Places are limited for this day due to the space but even if a young person cannot attend this event, the number of young people that can join the youth forum is not restricted...as it's a virtual group for young volunteers.

We are keen for young people who have an interest in the waterways and the environment such as boaters, kayakers, anglers, rowers, those interested in history etc. but also those young people who may not have a connection with the waterway, but are willing to take part and can share their views and ideas about young people with us.

Please could you share this information to anyone that you feel may be interested?

Thank you for your help

Ani

Ani Sutton
Rheolwr Datblygu ac Ymgysylltu
Development and Engagement Manager

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Upcoming Events

February 2016

- Wednesday 3rd Bunbury Hedge Laying – contact Roger Birch – roger.birch@canalrivertrust.org.uk
(Future dates – Every Wednesday)
- Monday 8th Shrewsbury & Newport Canal Trust hedge laying – contact Roger Birch -
roger.birch@canalrivertrust.org.uk (Future dates –Feb 8th & Mar 5th)
- Monday 8th & 22nd Hedge laying opposite Venetian Marina
Meet at Cholmondeston Lock – 09:30am until mid-afternoon. (Parking at Marina)
Please contact Ellie – brownellie15@outlook.com if you can help.
- Saturday 13th SUMBA work party – Offside and towpath vegetation clearance programme.
Meet at Aqueduct Marina @ 09:30am until mid-afternoon.
Contact Graham Russell – ggtr@btinternet.com (Future dates - Mar 5th)
- Saturday 13th Towpath Taskforce at Audlem; working around the mill and Shroppie Fly,
plus lockside of Lock 13, planting more wild flower seeds.
Contact Neville Preece – neville.preece@canalrivertrust.org.uk (Future dates - Mar
12th)
- Wednesday 25th Small Task Team Volunteers – Work party at Hurleston Locks 09:00hrs
All enquiries – Paul Mills 0151 336 1049 or e-mail exelbee@sky.com
- Monthly Ongoing IWA Chester Towpath Taskforce – events every last Saturday of each month.
- Montgomery and Llangollen Canal Volunteer Group - Friday group meeting each week
to complete a variety of tasks along the Llangollen and Montgomery Canals. Contact
Roger Birch – roger.birch@canalrivertrust.org.uk for more details each week.
- Future Works/Activities Welshpool Adoption Group – Continued works with Newtown Town Council,
Future projects include ‘tree/sapling/general clearance event at Freestones Lock –
Newtown’ and ‘Dolfor Lock’.
For further details contact Pat Ward -
patward@intonet.co.uk

I apologise in advance if I have missed any events for February off, please let me know if I have and I will endeavour to get the message out to everyone. It would be handy if each of the groups/adoptions/organisations could drop me an e-mail of the person that is best to get in contact with each month for their upcoming events and then hopefully I will cover everybody.



If you wish to be added to the list to receive this newsletter and other volunteering information please contact **Jason Watts – Volunteer Support Team Leader** – jason.watts@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Feedback:

Got any stories or suggestions for our next issue? Please contact us