

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**16 September**

## **London's oldest canal 'adopted' by local organisations**

The entire length of a historic east London canal, the Limehouse Cut, is being 'adopted' by a group of local organisations.

The Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the waterway– has welcomed the support from the 19 strong group, all of whom have a specific interest in or are based adjacent to the canal.

The Trust's waterway adoption scheme gives communities the chance to shape the future of their local canals and rivers. At a hands-on level they are able to get involved in activities from improving wildlife habitats or towpath clean-ups, to helping run educational or community events. The Trust's staff support these activities by providing equipment, advice and man-power.

Led by PoplarHARCA, a significant local housing provider, the group are informally called the Super Adoption Stakeholders (Sass) and will be the largest of the 100 adoptions nationwide. They will also look after a record length of waterway, with the stretch from the Limehouse Basin, near Narrow Street, all the way to Three Mills in Bow (therefore incorporating a small section of the River Lee as well) totaling over three miles.

They will formally start their role this September, initially offering activities a couple of times each month with the ambition of an adoption period of three years also adding to the Super-Adoption title.

Jeannette Brooks, Canal & River Trust development and engagement manager, said: "We're delighted Sass have adopted the Limehouse Cut. The canals and rivers in London are thriving at the moment, but the Cut is perhaps one of the lesser known and less-loved sections. In the last year or so we've started to see more and more groups use and help improve the water space. The adoption will accelerate this ongoing revival no end. We know from other areas that have been adopted the huge benefits of having people take ownership of their local canal, and we can't wait to see the diverse activities within the adoption action plan get started."

Babu Bhattacharjee PoplarHARCA's Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods said: "It is very forward thinking of Canal & River Trust to encourage interested groups to drive the regeneration of Limehouse Cut forward in partnership. The group has four key themes; education, environment, sport and commercial development. We will have tremendous volunteering opportunities for local residents and especially young people. We are working to develop paddle sports on the canal and already have linkages so young people can progress their sport to the highest level. Poplar HARCA is incredibly excited about the potential of this initiative for our local community."

The organisations that make up the adoption are: Poplar Harca, Active 360, Moo Canoes, Tryangle CIC, Watertrek, Ldn Youth Rowing, British Dragonboat Association, House Mill, Docklands Sailing & Watersports Centre, Queen Mary University, Lee & Stort Boat Company, Thames 21, 4<sup>th</sup> Polar Scouts, 2<sup>nd</sup> E Ldn Scouts, Bow Boat Company, Watertex, London Legacy Development Corporation, Leaside Planning, Ldn w/ways projects.

Dating back to 1766, the Limehouse Cut is London's oldest canal. More details are available at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/limehouse-cut>

For more information about canal adoptions or to get involved visit <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteering-in-london>

## Ends

### Notes to editors

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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.

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