



## PRESS RELEASE

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18 October 2016

### **APPEAL FOR PUBLIC TO ‘UNLOCK’ ICONIC WATERWAY ROLE**

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that looks after the canals and rivers across the East Midlands, is inviting local people to give lock keeping a go at a taster session planned on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

The drop-in session, which runs between 10am – 3pm, is being held at Newark Town Lock and budding volunteer lock keepers are encouraged to come along, learn more about the role and meet the current team of volunteers.

Lock keepers have been part of life on the river for hundreds of years and volunteer lock keepers play a crucial role in keeping the age-old tradition alive.

The role of the modern day volunteer lock keeper is to help look after the waterways, including assisting boaters through locks, providing a friendly welcome to visitors and helping the Trust maintain the canal network.

Wayne Ball, volunteer development coordinator for the Canal & River Trust, said; “Volunteer lock keepers provide a fantastic service and they really are the friendly face of the Trust. The role involves talking to boaters, helping them through locks, telling them about the local area and the history of the canal.

“The idea of the drop-in session is that people can just come along for as long or as little as they like and see if it’s something they might be interested in getting involved in. They can have a chat with some of our existing volunteers and get a feel for the role. If it’s something they do want to help with then we’ll arrange for them to have proper training over the winter and they’ll be ready to go when the main boating season starts at Easter.

“We’re looking for friendly, enthusiastic people who like being out in the great outdoors and would encourage anyone interested to come along on the 24<sup>th</sup> to find out more.”

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer lock keeper and can’t make the drop-in session then please email [wayne.ball@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:wayne.ball@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Newark Town Lock is a short walk from Newark Castle and the nearest car parking is by Riverside Park.

## **ENDS**

For further media requests please contact Stephen Hardy, communications manager on 07920 077190 or [stephen.hardy@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:stephen.hardy@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

### **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](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms