



PRESS RELEASE

31 October

London's oldest canal given makeover by dozens of volunteers

Over 50 volunteers helped to clean up the Limehouse Cut in east London on Friday 28 October, as part of one of the biggest ever one-day volunteering projects on the capital's oldest canal.

The event was by the Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for 100 miles of waterways in London – together with the Limehouse 'adoption group' which is made up of organisations along the three mile route of the Cut. The work was boosted by support from over 60 local scouts who helped out as part of National Scouting Week (24-28 Oct).

Volunteers took to canoes and paddleboards to pick floating debris, teams also hoovered up litter and clear buddleia from the towpath.

The adoption group was led by Poplar HARCA, a significant local housing provider, and for this event they were partnering alongside Moo Canoes, Dave Cornthwaite/The YesTribe, SUPKiko, London Canal Volunteers, Lower Regents Coalition, Riz Boardshorts, 2nd East London, 4th Poplar, 9th Tower Hamlets, 23rd Poplar Scouts Groups, all supporting the work of the Trust.

Dating back to 1766, the Limehouse Cut links the River Thames at Limehouse Basin to the River Lee.

Jeannette Brooks, Canal & River Trust development and engagement manager, said: "At a time when more people than ever before are visiting London's canals, the Limehouse Cut is perhaps one of the more under-used of the waterways. However, there is passionate support for it among local people and the new adoption group is testament to that. We've seen from other stretches of canal that when local people get involved in looking after it, they can transform it. The event was one of our biggest ever one-day volunteering event so far in this part of the capital. It was a fantastic day and we're so grateful for all the support from the adoption group, the local Scouts and everyone else who helped out."

The organisations that make up the Limehouse Cut adoption are: Poplar HARCA, Moo Canoes, Tryangle CIC, Watertrek, Ldn Youth Rowing, British Dragonboat Association, House Mill, Docklands Sailing & Watersports Centre, Queen Mary University, Lee & Stort Boat Company, Factory East, Dave Cornthwaite/The YesTribe, Thames 21, 4th Poplar Scouts, 2nd E Ldn Scouts,

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Bow Boat Company, Watertex, London Legacy Development Corporation, Active 360, Leaside Planning, London Waterways projects.

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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