



PRESS RELEASE

10 November 2016

SCHOOLS ENCOURAGED TO GO WILD AND WIN CANAL-THEMED HABITAT GARDEN

Schools across England & Wales are being given the chance to win a canal-themed habitat garden for their grounds.

The Canal & River Trust and People's Postcode Lottery have launched a competition inviting primary schools to design a habitat for wildlife inspired by those found along the nation's network of canals and rivers. One lucky winner will see their own design recreated in their school grounds by a specialist landscape architect.

The competition, called Corridor for Nature, will help children to understand the importance of canals and rivers in providing vital habitats for nature. Pupils will be encouraged to venture outside to survey the school grounds and maybe take inspiration from a visit to their local canal or river. They'll then use their findings to design a waterway-inspired habitat. They can suggest themes for water and wet areas, make recommendations for wild flowers and hedgerows or design small structures for nesting animals.

All entries will be judged and shortlisted by a team of experts and the winning design will be built within the grounds of the winning school. Runners-up will receive bird boxes and Canal & River Trust classroom posters.

Annette Simpson, education and interpretation manager for the Canal & River Trust said; "This competition is a great opportunity for children to really explore and think about their surroundings in order to design something that is appropriate for their school.

"Whether they live in a rural or urban area, with large school grounds or small, we want them to let their imaginations run free and design something that looks great and will attract wildlife. We hope to see lots of schools heading out into the great outdoors and taking part."

Clara Govier, head of charities at Peoples Postcode Lottery, said; "The nation's canals and rivers are great places for nature and a visit is a brilliant way of bringing learning to life so we're delighted to support this competition.

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

“We hope children have lots of fun as they get out there and seek inspiration for their very own waterway-themed garden. It will be a wonderful addition to any school grounds and we’re really looking forward to having a look at all the entries and seeing the winning design take shape.”

The competition is being run by the Canal & River Trust’s ‘Explorers’ education programme and has been developed to support the Science and Geography curriculum, with strong links to Design Technology and Art. There are a number of online resources available to help pupils with their designs.

To download resources and find out more about the competition, including the terms and conditions, go to www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

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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

People’s Postcode Lottery

- People’s Postcode Lottery is a charity lottery. Players play with their postcodes to win cash prizes, while raising money for charities and good causes across Great Britain and globally
- A minimum of 30% goes directly to charities and players have raised £154.8 Million for good causes across the country
- £10 for 10 draws paid monthly in advance with prizes every day. For further prize information visit: www.postcodelottery.co.uk/prizes
- Maximum amount a single ticket can win is 10% of the draw revenue to a maximum of £400,000
- Players can sign up by Direct Debit, credit card or PayPal online at www.postcodelottery.co.uk, or by calling 0808 10-9-8-7-6-5
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- People’s Postcode Lottery manages multiple society lotteries promoted by different charities. For details on which society lottery is running each week, visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk/society