



PRESS RELEASE

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LONDON'S CANALS SEEKING SHIPSHAPE ENTREPRENEUR

The Canal & River Trust is calling on entrepreneurs who would like to drop anchor on London's busy canals to get on-board with an exciting new commercial opportunity in Little Venice, one of the Capital's most picture-perfect spots.

Little Venice is currently home to a number of quirky boat-based business including trip boats and tours, a café, B&B and even a barge-based puppet theatre. The Canal & River Trust, the charity which looks after 2,000 miles of waterway across England and Wales, is floating a one-off opportunity to establish a new boating business that will enhance the appeal of this unique area for visitors, tourists and locals, while appreciating the character and tranquillity of the location.

London's canals and rivers are busier than at the height of the Industrial Revolution: last year around 65 million visits were made to the Capital's towpaths, while the waterways are home to over 4,800 boats. Popular as a place to escape the rat-race and get in touch with nature and history, London's longest linear park offers something for everybody.

Mike Grimes, head of boating at the Trust, said: "Little Venice is one of the jewels in London's crown – an area steeped in heritage and character. When a boater cruises into the pool they know they've arrived in the heart of the Capital's canals, while tourists come to hop on a trip boat or enjoy the view from the floating café, and locals come to feed the ducks and enjoy the calming atmosphere. This is an exciting opportunity for anyone wanting to set up a business in a really special place. We're looking for a proposal that is exciting, new and different while complementing the existing businesses and remaining sympathetic to the feel of the area. I can't wait to see what ideas people put forward."

Situated at the junction where the Grand Union Canal meets the Regent's Canal, Little Venice is just minutes from Paddington Station. The mooring is on the north side of the Little Venice pool, adjacent to Blomfield Road, between Jason's Trip and Jessie's B&B. It is 25 metres long and has mooring rings, a 100 amp electricity supply and a water point.

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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

Initially the Trust will be seeking expressions of interest by February 2017 before entering in to a formal tender process in due course. More information, including a copy of the marketing particulars, can be found here: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/business-and-trade/boating-business/tendered-opportunities>

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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.

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