



PRESS RELEASE

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Appeal launched for new lock keepers on east London canal

The charity that looks after the Regent's Canal in Tower Hamlets is searching for new volunteers to take-up arguably the most iconic waterway role – the lock keeper.

The Canal & River Trust is on the lookout for people interested in volunteering at Old Ford Lock, next to Victoria Park, helping passing boaters, welcoming visitors and giving a hand to the Trust's teams in maintaining the canal.

The volunteers will help to keep the historic tradition of lock-keeping alive along the canal, where lock keepers have been part of waterway life for hundreds of years.

Full training is provided and people of all ages (over 18) and experiences are encouraged to apply. Volunteer lock keepers work on a shift basis throughout the year, with busier periods typically expected between April-October.

Rosemarie Coffey, has volunteered at Old Ford Locks since last year, she says: "I've really enjoyed working as a lock keeper. We've got a good team of four of us, a typical day will revolve around helping people through the locks, painting and even gardening. We also get a lot of people on the towpath stopping to watch the boats and asking questions about the canal. It's great to work outdoors, that for me was the main draw to volunteering on the waterways, and it's certainly something I'd recommend to other people too."

Nadia Payne, Canal & River Trust volunteer development co-ordinator, said: "Lock keeping is probably the most iconic job on the waterways. Our lock keepers are the face of the canal, safely seeing boats through the locks, as well as helping people with directions or information about the area. It's a great role for anyone keen to work outdoors and meet new people. You'll learn some new skills too and all-in-all provide a huge amount of help for the hundreds of thousands of visitors we get to the canal each year."

Applications for the role are open until now, with training and induction beginning in March. For more information visit <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>

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The Canal & River Trust cares for 1,583 locks nationwide and there are approximately 3.8 million 'lockings' each year (passages through locks).

Ends

Notes to editors

For further media requests please contact: joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk 020 3204 4410

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.

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